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Anti-gay U.S. immigration policy nixed

Congressional committees approve legislation that takes lesbians and gay men off the INS exclusion list. The act also explicitly gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services the power to strike down restrictions against people with AIDS and HIV

By Chris Nealon

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Congress overturned four decades of anti-gay discrimination Oct. 26, as House and Senate conference committees approved legislation that removes lesbians and gay men from the list of U.S. immigration exclusions. The legislation, known as the Family Unity and Employment Opportunity Act of 1990, also makes it possible for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to remove HIV and AIDS from the list of exclusions.



ELLEN SHUB

Barney Frank

The ban on lesbians and gay men has been on the books since the 1950's, when the McCarran-Walter Act forbade immigration by individuals with "psychopathic personalities" or "sexual deviation." Although the American Psychological Association removed homosexuality from its list of "mental disorders" in 1973, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has continued to use the old guidelines.

The restriction on people with HIV/AIDS

was drafted by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and passed in 1987 as part of an unrelated appropriations bill. Since that time, HHS and INS have claimed that they cannot legally remove AIDS and HIV from their list of exclusions without action from Congress. The new legislation explicitly states that the HHS Secretary, currently Louis Sullivan, not Congress, is to be responsible for determining which diseases are grounds for exclusion.

HHS and the INS came under fire for their acceptance of the anti-gay, anti-HIV/AIDS policies this spring, during preparations for the Sixth International Conference on AIDS. Nearly 100 AIDS service and research organizations worldwide boycotted the San Francisco gathering because of the exclusions (See *GCN*, April 28, May 26, June 16).

The amendments to the Family Unity Act removing lesbians and gay men from the exclusions and giving HHS responsibility for removing HIV/AIDS were sponsored by openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.).

"I think it's very significant that [they] passed so easily," Frank told *GCN*. He said he was particularly pleased because the okay on the amendments came so soon after he was reprimanded by Congress--a sign that the legislature isn't holding grudges. Frank was reprimanded in September after a long ethics committee battle over his involvement with prostitute Stephen Gobie. Frank had been accused of abusing his congressional privileges to assist Gobie with his business. The reprimand he received is much less extreme than a full censure would have been.

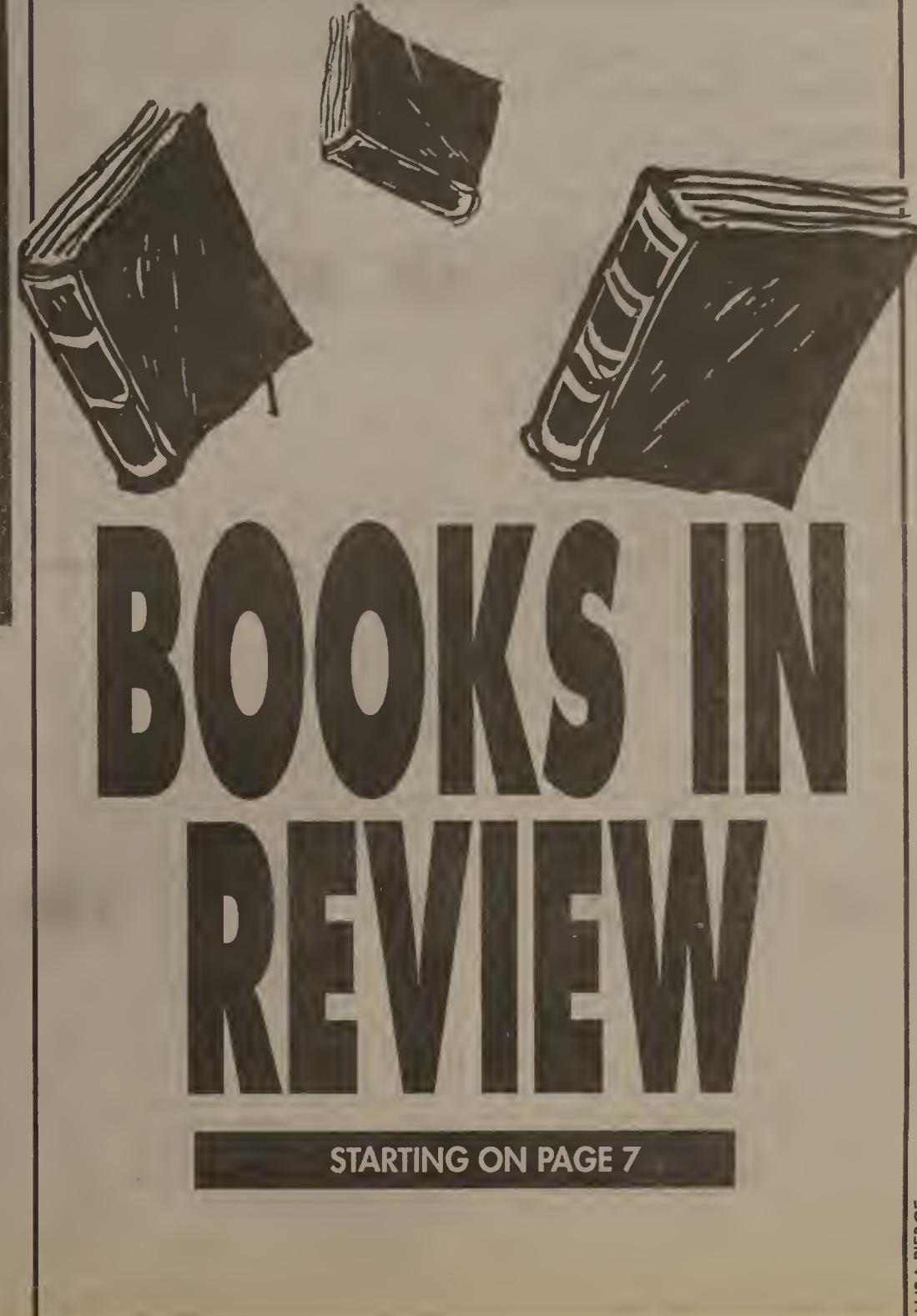
Frank also said he had been waiting for a long time for a bill that was comprehensive enough for the pro-gay amendment. "This is the first bill reforming immigration since I got to congress," he said. Inserting the pro-gay amendment into narrower legislation, he said, might have subjected it to harsh scrutiny.

As for Congress's willingness to give HHS power to remove HIV/AIDS from the restrictive policy, Frank said that he thought great progress has been made in AIDS education in the last few years. Among legislators, he said, "there has been a very

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BOOKS IN REVIEW

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Laura Pierce

Congress votes to fund and re-authorize the NEA

In a separate move, the Endowment drops its requirement that applicants sign a pledge saying their works will not be obscene

By Laura Briggs

WASHINGTON—During the final days of the congressional session, legislators voted to fund the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for another year, and, in a defeat for Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), dropped some of the more draconian restrictions imposed on the NEA. In related development, the NEA dropped its requirement that artists sign a pledge not to create "obscene" or "homoerotic" work.

Lobbyist Peri Jude Radecic of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) declined to call the bill appropriating funds for the NEA a solid victory for the lesbian and gay arts communities, noting that it still requires NEA monitoring of potentially controversial art. NGLTF "never lobbied for the compromise measure," Radecic told *GCN*, though the group did lobby against a number of Helms amendments, all of which were eventually defeated.

The move comes a year after Helms successfully attached an amendment to an NEA funding bill prohibiting the NEA from giving money that might "promote, disseminate, or produce obscene or indecent materials, including but not limited to depictions of sadomasochism, homoeroticism, the exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts; or materials which denigrate the objects of belief of the adherents of a particular religion or non-religion."

NEA re-authorized

The compromise funding bill was granted final approval Oct. 27 by a House/Senate conference committee. In a surprise move, the committee also approved re-authorization of the existence of the NEA for three years. According to Radecic, many legislators had expected another protracted battle over the re-authorization.

"Any time we beat Helms, it's a victory," said Radecic. "However, we know that this is not the end of arts restriction," she added.

"First it was sadomasochism with Mapplethorpe, then it was gay and lesbian artists and straight artists with gay content. Then, it was feminist artists like Judy Chicago. And most recently, it was Michael Kelly and scatological and political art."

The new measure allows the courts to rule on whether a piece of art is "obscene," rather than requiring the NEA to make that determination. If an artist is convicted on charges of creating obscene material, she or he is barred from applying for another NEA grant for three years. In addition, the Endowment is required to police artists more closely, making site visits and doling out grants in installments rather than lump sums. The bill also grants more power to the NEA chair in determining awards, and funnels some money away from the NEA to city and state arts councils.

President Bush is expected to sign the measure, which is contained within the Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

The compromise legislation was endangered when Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, unexpectedly amended the bill while it was still in committee. Byrd's version contained language similar to last year's anti-gay, no obscenity Helms amendment. According to Radecic, Senators were very hesitant to challenge Byrd, as he "holds the purse strings" for Senators' pet projects.

However, liberal Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and conservative Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), the unlikely duo that has been extremely effective in defeating anti-gay Helms legislation, joined forces with Sens. Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kans.) and Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) to replace the Byrd/Helms restrictions with their compromise language.

One Helms amendment that did succeed in passing the Senate barred awarding grants for material that "denigrates religion." While the measure passed on a voice vote before an

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National gay groups endorse Marlboro/Miller boycott

WASHINGTON—Calling for an end to corporate support of homophobia, two of the largest lesbian and gay political organizations in the U.S. endorsed the boycott of Marlboro cigarettes and Miller beer at the end October. In a joint press conference, the directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) denounced the Philip Morris Corporation's financial support of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). Philip Morris, which owns Miller and Marlboro, is among the largest donors to Helms's 1990 reelection campaign.

"We really believe that gay people have to start organizing in the corporate context, organizing for corporate responsibility," said NGLTF director Urvashi Vaid. "Boycotting is a valuable strategy for our movement to consider." More specifically, Vaid told *GCN*, "We want to influence [Philip Morris] to change its policy of supporting people who are enemies of the lesbian and gay community."

Vaid also said she thought that the boycott was having an effect on Philip Morris, remarking that officials from the corporation recently contacted NGLTF to ask them to apply for a \$10,000-\$15,000 grant. "We respectfully declined," said Vaid.

The boycott was first declared in April by ACT UP/D.C. against Marlboro, and expanded to include Miller in July. Approximately 20 U.S. cities are currently listed on the boycott hotline.

ACT UP activists have also been trailing Philip Morris around the country, disrupting the company's anniversary tour of the Bill of Rights in Vermont and Rhode Island (see *GCN*, Oct. 27), and demonstrating at the National Assembly of State Art Agencies in Milwaukee. In an Oct. 25 action, Milwaukee activists charged that Philip Morris's support of the Assembly was inconsistent with its support of Helms, who has campaigned vigorously against freedom of artistic expression.

Vaid said she was optimistic about the long-term effectiveness of the boycott, remarking that the broad support for the effort sends a message to corporate America, and not just to Philip Morris. "We hope it will have a ripple effect among corporations," she said. "Nobody wants bad publicity."

Chris Nealon

Fighting for gay visibility in North Dakota

GRAND FORKS, N.D.—According to a recent piece in the *New York Native*, a gay newspaper, most lesbians and gay men in North Dakota still face stiff opposition to their existence, to say nothing of their civil rights.

In many instances, North Dakota lesbians and gay men said, fear of their sexuality was linked to fear of AIDS. Daryl Piker, a convenience store clerk who founded a lesbian/gay support group called Friendship Anonymous, said that one of his fellow employees "won't come near me because she thinks she'll get AIDS."

At the University of North Dakota (UND), lesbian and gay student activism has met with similar resistance. Shortly after students from UND's Organization for Alternative Lifestyles chalked pro-gay slogans on campus sidewalks in honor of National Coming Out Week, threatening anti-gay messages appeared on the same walkways. In a letter to the UND student newspaper, meanwhile, 20 students argued that gay men and lesbians are spreading "the Black Plague of the '90s."

Lou Cyr, a member of another campus group called the 10 Percent Society, said that her gay and lesbian friends in the eastern part of the state get very little support. "They live in a lot of tension and fear," she said.

"I once tried to organize a gay pride march," said Piker, "but it's a little hard to do with only one person marching."

Chris Nealon

Sodomy okay for hets in Maryland

Rockville, Md.—The Maryland Court of Appeals recently ruled that a state law prohibiting oral sex is valid only when applied to homosexual acts. In a 5-to-2 decision handed down in early October, the seven members of the Court of Appeals decreed that a law prohibiting "unnatural or perverted sexual practices" does not apply to

consensual private oral sex engaged in by heterosexual couples, regardless of their marital status.

The case, *Steven Schochet vs. Maryland*, originally centered around charges that Schochet had raped a woman in Montgomery County. A jury declared Schochet not guilty of rape, but found him guilty on one charge of "unnatural and perverted practice" because he admitted to having engaged in fellatio with the woman whom he was accused of raping. The court sentenced him to five years in prison, but suspended the sentence and placed him on five years' probation.

Schochet first brought the case to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, arguing that the law was unconstitutional "as applied to private and noncommercial sexual acts between consenting heterosexuals." When the court rejected Schochet's appeal, Schochet took the case to the Maryland Court of Appeals, which declared that the "unnatural or perverted" law does not apply to heterosexuals.

The 25-page decision, written by Judge Jon Eldridge, is based on the fact that no heterosexuals have previously been prosecuted under the law. Wrote Eldridge, "This is a strong indication that such conduct is not within the contemplation of the law."

Sue Hyde, head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's privacy project, said she hoped that the "unfairness" of the decision would "galvanize" Maryland's gay and lesbian community into fighting for a repeal of the state law.

Julie Graham

U. of Oregon releases study on campus gay life

EUGENE, Ore.—Most gay and lesbian students at the University of Oregon feel unsafe on campus, and many have been harassed or threatened, according to a report by the university's ad hoc task force on gay/lesbian concerns.

According to the *San Francisco Sentinel*, a lesbian and gay newspaper, the report recommends the creation of a permanent committee for lesbian/gay issues. In the 113-page document, the task force also argues that the university should examine its housing, insurance, and campus recruiting policies, some of which discriminate against lesbians and gay men.

At a press conference marking the release of the report, university president Myles Brand praised the work of the task force and said that the institution would give its recommendations serious thought.

The task force was created after a gay candidate for student government president and his running mate were subjected to death threats during the 1989 campus elections.

Chris Nealon

Asian lesbians to meet in Thailand

BANGKOK—The Asian regional conference for lesbians, the first event of its kind in Asia, will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, in early December. The conference, organized by the Asian Lesbian Network (ALN), will be held Dec. 7-9 at a small beach resort town near Bangkok.

Conference organizers predict that 80 lesbians from 11 regional countries will attend the event. The conference will include an opening party on the evening of Dec. 7, as well as workshops and cultural activities.

For more information, or to contribute money or media materials, write to: ALN, P.O. Box 322, Rajda nern, Bangkok, 10200, Thailand.

Julie Graham

NAMBLA holds twelfth conference

BOSTON—The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) will hold its twelfth anniversary membership conference at the Lesbian and Gay Community Service Center here Nov. 9-12. In conjunction with the MIT ad-hoc committee on Lesbian and Gay studies, NAMBLA will show *Montreal Main* and *Broken Noses*, two films which focus upon man/boy love themes. *Montreal Main*, lauded by the *Village Voice* as being "humorous and surprising," chronicles the relationship between an artist and a 13-year-old boy. *Broken Noses*, a 1988 documentary by Bruce Weber, "explores the relationships between a boxing coach and his youthful charges."

The films will be shown at 7:30 and 9:15, respectively, on the MIT campus, room 66-110, 15 Ames St., Cambridge. For more

information, or to confirm times, call 695-8034.

Julie Graham

Lesbian sues AT&T

NEW YORK—The surviving lesbian partner of a deceased AT&T employee has filed a suit against the company for its refusal to provide her with benefits following her lover's death. Sandra Rovira, the surviving partner, filed a complaint in late August stating that AT&T's denial of benefits violates federal law as well as its own company employment policy, which includes protection against discrimination based on marital status or sexual orientation.

Rovira had been in a 12-year committed relationship with Marjorie Forlini, who for 10 years had also served as co-parent to Rovira's two children from previous marriage.

After Forlini's death in 1988, however, AT&T refused to grant Rovira sickness/death benefits, the equivalent of Forlini's annual income. The benefit is routinely provided by AT&T to the surviving spouse and children of employees in order to assist them with the loss of a wage earner. AT&T's refusal to provide benefits was based upon the lack of a legal union between Forlini and Rovira, and the fact that the children were not Forlini's natural or adopted children.

According to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's Paula Ettelbrick, who is handling the case, AT&T's breach of policy is not unusual among corporations. "The vast majority of employers do not provide health insurance or other benefits for family members of lesbian and gay employees, despite their stated promises to do so," she said.

Julie Graham

Photos found in dumpster may be Mapplethorpe's

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.—An unidentified man here claims to have found what appear to be three original prints by the late Robert Mapplethorpe, according to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The man, whose lawyer turned the photos over to local police Sept. 26, says that he found the photographs in a dumpster "somewhere along Bellarm Boulevard," San Rafael's main commercial street.

According to police, the photographs, which are all signed, may be worth up to \$20,000 if they are authentic. Two of the black and white prints are identical images of a man standing with his arms crossed, wearing a pair of U.S.-Navy issue long underwear. One of the photos is inscribed "For Larry" in writing that appears to be Mapplethorpe's. The third photo shows only a penis. It is dated and signed, but bears no inscription or indication of who the man in the photo might be.

Police in San Rafael are openly skeptical of the dumpster story. "Our main concern is not so much authenticity as whether [the prints are] stolen or not," said Sgt. Jim Kelly.

If the owner of the photographs is not located within 120 days, the photos will become the property of the man who claims to have found them.

Julie Graham

Office of Soviet gay paper burglarized

MOSCOW—The office of the Soviet gay newspaper *Tema* was burglarized Sept. 21, and members of the Moscow Union of Lesbians and Gay Men (MULGM) are blaming the crime on the KGB, the soviet secret police.

According to *Tema* co-publisher Roman Kalinin, the robbers "took two-thirds of the money for the fourth issue of *Tema*," as well as the group's banner and all of its documents. He added that "everything related to the paper" was stolen.

In recent months, the KGB and police have clashed with MULGM repeatedly. The problems began in April when local police threatened KGB action if MULGM defied orders to stop publishing *Tema*, and end its communication with the International Lesbian and Gay association based in Stockholm. In July, police violently halted an MULGM AIDS demonstration held outside of the Twenty-eighth Communist Party Congress at the Kremlin.

Police also broke off a meeting between four activists and an ACT UP/Chicago representative, who was bringing them a shipment of condoms.

The prior actions of the KGB, as well as the nature of the recent burglary, have caused MULGM to blame the Sep. 21 incident on

KGB officials. Said Kalinin of the robbery, "This would be very strange behavior for common robbers. We all have an idea that it was the KGB."

Julie Graham

Anti-war activists protest around the country

BOSTON—Anti-war activists in 25 cities held demonstrations Oct. 20 to demand that U.S. troops be withdrawn from Saudi Arabia. Shouting "Hell no, we won't go, we won't fight for Texaco," over 500 anti-war activists gathered on Boston Common for the largest demonstration held here since the build-up began. Other major cities where protests occurred included San Francisco, New York, Chicago and London.

The Boston demonstration was sponsored by the New England Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East and included lesbian and gay activists, students, union members and Vietnam-era veterans.

Laura Briggs

Money given back to Planned Parenthood

MINNEAPOLIS—In response to pressure from pro-choice activists, the Dayton-Hudson Company restored an \$18,000 grant to Planned Parenthood in September.

According to *Sojourner*, after 22 years of awarding funds to Planned Parenthood, Dayton-Hudson announced in late August that it did not want to become involved in the abortion debate. Dayton-Hudson joined AT&T in rejecting funding for Planned Parenthood after the right-wing Christian Action Council in Falls Church, Va., threatened both companies with boycotts.

Pro-choice activists countered the move with demonstrations and boycotts of their own, and succeeded in having the grant from Dayton-Hudson — though not AT&T — reinstated. Perhaps "other corporations [will] think very hard about the possible implications of the decision to defund Planned Parenthood, [a group] broadly supported by the American people," said Faye Wattleton, the organization's president.

The Dayton-Hudson grant will fund community education programs on pregnancy prevention.

Laura Briggs

Illinois governor signs hate crimes bill

CHICAGO—For the first time in Illinois history, state government put a pro-gay law on the books. Gov. James Thompson signed a hate crimes bill Sept. 11 that amended the existing code to include sexual orientation, "physical handicap," and ancestry as categories of hate violence.

The Freedom From Violence Act, which will increase criminal penalties for people convicted of hate crimes, survived a rocky battle in the state legislature, according to the *Windy City Times*, a gay paper. In June, the House of Representatives first voted to remove sexual orientation language from the bill, and then voted to restore the clause. The Senate had defeated an amendment to remove sexual orientation in May.

"We can now go to police departments and tell them there is a specific law on fag-bashing that you should be enforcing," said Tim Drake, co-chair of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which lobbied for the bill. Drake said the group is "ecstatic" that the governor signed the legislation.

Laura Briggs

Arson hits gay, AIDS facility in Tennessee

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—A gay church and an AIDS service center here were the targets of a fire that local police are investigating as arson.

The fire at the building housing the Metropolitan Community Church and AIDS Response Knoxville was preceded by several months of anonymous threatening phone calls, according to *Heartland*, a lesbian and gay paper. The calls included recitations of bible verses, and vows that the KKK was going to burn the church down.

Rev. Robert Galloway of MCC said that such phone calls have been "a way of life" since the church began in 1985, but that this is the first act of violence to be directed at the congregation.

Laura Briggs



(l to r) Edwina Franchild, Marj Schneider, Lynne Zelvin at Womyn's Braille Press

The Womyn's Braille Press turns 10

WBP celebrates a decade of success

By James Davies

MINNEAPOLIS—The Womyn's Braille Press (WBP) celebrated ten years of survival and achievement Oct. 27.

"I don't think of any of us thought, at that first meeting in September 1980, that we'd be having a tenth anniversary party," said WBP board member Marj Schneider. "It's amazing and wonderful."

At the celebration, local musicians Judith Eisner (violinist), Nancy Cox (soprano), and Jane Lancot (pianist) performed music of Maria Theresa von Paradis, a blind composer and pianist from Vienna who lived from 1759 to 1824. Von Paradis memorized over 60 piano concertos, and opened a music school that many blind students attended.

Anne Finger, author of *Basic Skills*, a collection of short stories, and *Past Due: A Story of Disability, Pregnancy and Birth*, presented a reading at the event.

WBP members tell their own story best: "Six blind women in Minneapolis, Minnesota created WBP because 'we wanted to decide for ourselves what we could read.' Today WBP has over 275 subscribers in the United States, Canada, England, Australia and Germany. There are over 500 books on tape

and dozens in Braille in WBP's ever-expanding library. Several feminist periodicals are recorded and circulated to subscribers. In addition WBP's quarterly newsletter is one of only a few publications published by and for disabled women."

In an interview with *Equal Time*, a gay and lesbian paper in Minneapolis, Schneider and fellow WBP board members Lynn Zelvin and Edwina Franchild said that, through the hard work of its board and supporters, the organization operates on a budget of only \$18,000 per year. There is only one part-time paid employee, Miriam Montash, who does office work and bookkeeping.

All agreed that more, of course, could be done with more financial resources, more space, more Braille books and more tapes. Funding, however, is difficult to find.

"The percentage of money going to women's projects, and within that, lesbian projects, is minuscule," said Schneider. "WBP was turned down by the Ms. Foundation. Disability isn't on their list," added Franchild.

"We're sort of too radical for most groups that address disability," said Zelvin said. "We sent out a letter to 400 foundations. Of those

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Campus pro-heterosexual groups on the rise

The proliferation of the organizations indicates an increase in right-wing activity at colleges and universities

By Laura Briggs

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—A few days before participants at the Fourth Annual Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Studies Conference converged on Harvard University Oct. 26-28, members of a conservative student group plastered the college with blue squares, a symbol that some interpreted as an antithesis of the pink triangle. In the same vein, students at the University of Massachusetts/Boston (UMass) formed a group called the Heterosexual Club, the previous week. While those involved in both organizations maintain that their actions are not anti-gay, lesbian and gay students at both universities responded with outrage, saying that the gestures were clearly intended to antagonize gay people.

At Harvard, members of the Association Against Learning in the Absence of Religion and Morality (AALAR) plastered the campus with posters that featured blue squares and the words "faith, family, country, and community." They also chalked blue squares on college footpaths.

"The thing that offended me was that they mocked a Holocaust symbol," said Charlie Flatt of Harvard's Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Student Association. The pink triangle was worn by those who were incarcerated in World War II concentration camps because of their homosexuality. In the last two decades, it has been reclaimed and displayed as a symbol of gay pride and liberation.

AALAR founders, roommates Adam Webb and Kenneth DeGiorgio, said that their use of the four-sided symbol was meant to refer to the "traditional values" of faith, family, country, and community, and was not

anti-gay but "pro-heterosexuality."

DeGiorgio told *GCN*, "We are opposed to the act, but not the person." He said that when a Harvard student walks across campus, "there are hundreds—well, several—posters promoting homosexuality, including some with pornographic images." Webb said that for students like himself who come from traditional backgrounds, being "thrust into a very permissive society" like Harvard is a shock, and he emphasized that AALAR functions as a support group. According to DeGiorgio, the poster campaign and the furor that followed it boosted the group's membership from 10 to 50.

Right-wing connections on campus

The recent blue-squares incident at Harvard parallels heightened right-wing activity at other elite private colleges. Right-wing Harvard students displayed a blue square banner a year and a half ago to voice their objection to a gay kiss-in that had been called in response to a gay-bashing incident. At Wellesley College, blue circles appeared last spring as anti-gay symbols.

Last spring at Mt. Holyoke College, students displayed blue squares as part of a "heterosexual pride" week that was called by editors of the ultra-conservative *Subterranean* (see *GCN*, May 20). At Harvard, while groups maintain that they are distinct, AALAR's formation last Spring coincided with the founding of a new right-wing publication, the *Peninsula*.

Both the *Peninsula* and the *Subterranean* are part of the Collegiate Network, a directory of student publications with ties to

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Former Supreme Court Justice calls Hardwick decision a 'mistake'

Lewis Powell says that he considered the decision that upheld Georgia's sodomy law to be 'a frivolous case'

By John Zeh

WASHINGTON—Asked if in retrospect he doubts any decision he made while on the U.S. Supreme Court, retired Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. has confirmed that he regrets helping the High Court uphold Georgia's sodomy law.

Before stepping down from the tribunal, in 1987 Powell delivered the key fifth vote in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the case that upheld the sodomy statute and rejected arguments that homosexual behavior is covered by constitutional protection of rights to privacy.

"I think I probably made a mistake in that one," Powell acknowledged at a mid-October meeting with New York University law students. Earlier, Powell had conceded that he initially voted to support dissenters who wanted to strike down the sodomy statute, but changed his vote to agree with four conservative colleagues on the court.

"In technical, Supreme Court parlance," remembered openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), "he went through a procedure known as choking."

Frank said that Powell "then wrote the most outrageous, dishonest decision, in which he said, 'Well, I'm not going to throw it out on these grounds, but if people brought an Eighth Amendment case that said it was cruel and unusual punishment, maybe I'd go with it.'"

Frank added, "It was just appalling, to say, 'Yeah, you're right—but I'm afraid to say so.'"

Havard Law School Professor Laurence H. Tribe, who represented Michael Hardwick, said that Powell's statement could undercut the opinion's moral force. "The fact that a

respected jurist who is indispensable to the majority conceded that on a sober second-thought he was probably wrong certainly will affect the way that future generations look at the decision," said Tribe.

The renowned case has been used by gay and lesbian activists to document the peril of government's intrusion in people's personal lives. Among other anti-sodomy law actions since the decision, demonstrators have staged "sleep-ins" on the Supreme Court's steps to protest the ruling.

The decision has also been used by prosecutors to rationalize criminal charges against gay people and deny equal protection for gay men and lesbians, especially in the military. For instance, Dallas officials cited the Texas' ban on sodomy and the *Hardwick* case as justification for not allowing a lesbian to join the police force, according to William Rubenstein, of the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

The case began when Alantan Michael Hardwick was ticketed for holding a beer outside the bar where he worked. He paid the fine, but the city slipped up and issued an arrest warrant. A guest staying at Hardwick's home allowed a police officer serving the citation to go inside the house, where Hardwick and a friend were engaging in oral sex. The city dropped the case, but Hardwick filed suit to challenge the law's constitutionality.

When the case reached the Supreme Court, Justice Byron R. White cited "ancient roots" of rules against homosexual sodomy, noting that the practice is illegal in 24 states

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New study says oral sex may be risky

However, AIDS educators say the information is interesting, but not 'groundbreaking'

By Chris Nealon

SAN FRANCISCO — A recent medical study highlighting the dangers of unprotected oral sex has sent ripples through the gay community, although many AIDS educators say they do not find the results of the report surprising. In the study, 15 percent of 82 men who tested positive for HIV claimed to have had no risk of transmission besides oral sex without a condom. The results of the study are the second to point to the risks of unprotected oral sex, following a 1989 San Francisco Department of Health project that documented two cases of such transmission. The study was conducted by epidemiologists at the School of Public Health at the University of California at Berkeley.

According to the *San Francisco Sentinel*, a lesbian and gay newspaper, researchers emphasized that the study merely confirms common AIDS-education wisdom about oral sex, and does not represent a significant break with current medical assumptions about HIV. For instance, the UC Berkeley statistics still place unprotected anal sex at the top of the list of risky sexual practices.

West Coast response

"I'm not freaked by it," said Eric Rofes, executive director of San Francisco's Shanti Project, a large AIDS service organization. "I think the people who are freaked about it are the people who really believed that oral sex was safe."

Rofes agreed with the Berkeley researchers that AIDS educators have traditionally voiced caution about unprotected oral sex, and said he thought some of the media coverage of the study had made the epidemiologists' findings more startling than they actually were. "Some of the coverage has been extreme," Rofes told *GCN*.

Holly Smith, Shanti's media director, didn't comment on the quality of coverage, but she said she thought AIDS news in the local mainstream press had dwindled recently after a long history of reporting. "The San Francisco press is very AIDSed-out," she said, adding that she thought the

community's "cumulative grief has reached an overload."

However, Smith said that, over the years "there has been a lot of reporting about safe and unsafe behaviors in the local mainstream press"; and, although the Berkeley study "was good research, ... it wasn't groundbreaking."

More striking in the East

Nonetheless, the study seems to have sparked a somewhat bitter response on the East Coast. New York City's *Outweek*, a lesbian and gay magazine, ran a cartoon recently depicting an already-injured gay man about to be crushed by a giant, plummeting safe, labelled, "unprotected oral sex." And long-time AIDS activist Larry Kramer wondered in an *Outweek* editorial how safe kissing could be if oral sex were unsafe.

Jim Branning, an AIDS educator with Boston's AIDS Action Council (AAC), told *GCN* he agreed with Rofes that the study was more upsetting to people who have believed all along that oral sex is safe. He said he had been surprised, however, to learn that some AIDS educators actually tell gay men that the practice is safe. Branning said he preferred to use the term "low-risk" instead of "safe," saying it was "careless" to describe oral sex as "safe".

"There's a big difference between, 'low-risk' and 'safe,'" said Branning, remarking that he considers 'safe' to mean, 'no risk at all.'

Branning said he thought it was important to keep discussions about safe sex on a personal level. "I think we need to talk about it not as an abstraction, but bring it back to reality, to say, 'what would you do?'" Branning, who is HIV-positive, said he tried to get the gay men in his workshops to answer their own questions about what safe sex should be. For instance, Branning said, he might tell a member of a workshop who wants to know if oral sex is safe, "I am an HIV-positive man. Would you take my semen in your mouth?"

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COMMUNITY VOICES

GCN Editorial Guidelines

The "Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" sections in GCN are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed within our pages. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and "Speaking Out" contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space available basis only. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff or membership.

All letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be postponed temporarily.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily — please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

Send to: Community Voices/Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

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Comedy with conviction

[A copy of this letter was sent to Mr. Capra in response to a letter that appeared in GCN Oct 7-13, Vol 18, no 13]

Dear Mr. Capra,

My name is Bob Baden and I am the member of "Guilty Children" with whom you had a problem. Apparently you found my character Florian Dimure a gross stereotype of the gay man. And your point is well taken.

It is not my, nor any member of "Guilty Children"s, goal to offend. I did not mean to suggest that Florian represents every gay man, but you yourself that he does depict a certain sub-culture of our community. The elements that comprise this character, though exaggerated for the stage, are drawn from my own personal experiences. Specifically the character is based on a real person in my life who I see as a role model to the gay community. Florian is not a bitter or cruel man, he loves life and suggests that we all do the same. I do not see this as a "regression into the fifties" but as a step forward into the 90's.

I have performed this character in front of well over 10,000 people (mostly in gay environments/establishments) and you are the first to take offense. This does not lessen the validity of your point, however it does merit some room for thought on your point.

Lastly, please do not call me a "goon". I did not attack the gay community as others in my profession feel compelled to do. I work very hard to entertain and present characters that we all know and like.

P.S. Thanks for the feedback.

Bob Baden
Somerville, MA

Haste makes waste

Dear GCN:

It is important for voters, while deciding how to vote on Question 3, to consider the following points:

1) Many voters may be inclined to go with Question 3 because Proposition 2 1/2 worked out fairly well. This reasoning is faulty because Prop. 2 1/2 was phased in while Question 3 is a large cut all at once. Furthermore, 2 1/2 has worked largely due to increases in local aid since 1981. If Question 3 passes, local aid may be diminished, and consequently 2 1/2 may be put in jeopardy.

2) Believe it or not, Massachusetts is not "Taxachusetts". 2 1/2 addressed the property tax problem when real estate levies were 70% above the national average. Now, the overall tax burden is roughly in the middle of the fifty tax states relative to personal income. In fact, the state tax burden is about a billion dollars below the CLT sponsored limit approved by voters in 1986 when the tax limitation statute passed.

3) People are really mad at the way taxes were raised (sometimes in the dead of the

night), mad at Dukakis, mad at the hacks, and justifiably so. But does it make sense to create chaos, as opposed to giving the new governor and legislature a shot at orderly restructuring? Of course not.

4) I have called for large cuts in state taxes in the past. But the past is not now. In the past, the state enjoyed a surplus and a robust economy, so it made sense to cut taxes so new programs would not be created. But now, revenues are off, the economy sluggish. We can cut the budget, certainly, but it makes much more sense to do it gradually. The best analogy I can think of is a diet — you're supposed to lose weight gradually. Nobody who is responsible suggests you try to lose all the fat you need to lose at once.

If you believe in the time-honored advice that haste makes waste, slow and steady wins the race, and Rome wasn't built in a day, then a "no" on Question 3 is the wiser course to take as we put a bunch of new people in Beacon Hill.

Sincerely,
Gregory S. Hyatt
Former Director of CLT
and one of the authors of 2 1/2
Boston

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Prisoners need community support

Dear GCN:

I am an anti-imperialist political prisoner and a lesbian. I've been locked up for 5 1/2 years, mostly in city jails in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. I am an enthusiastic fan of GCN — one of the few papers that covers gay and lesbian news without separating "our issues" from those of the society as a whole — especially racism. And I appreciate the coverage and support GCN has given to my case (the Resistance Conspiracy Case) and political prisoners.

GCN is also one of the only paper in this country that offers concrete support and help to gay and lesbian prisoners. It is a lifeline for many of us. Imagine any of the homophobic attacks you've ever suffered — and then imagine facing it in prison. Imagine fighting HIV and AIDS — in prison. Now imagine any of that (along with the racism and brutality of the system intensified as they are in the prisons) without the access to community support provided by GCN.

The purpose of this letter is to urge GCN readers to step forward and help our loved and much-appreciated brother Mike Riegler with the work of keeping GCN accessible to queers in prison. We need you and he needs you. In the bargain, you will meet some wonderful comrades who are behind bars, and you will have the chance to work with Mike. That in itself is a tremendous reward.

People often quote Dostoyevsky, saying you can judge a society by the quality of its prisons. It seems to me that a progressive movement or community can also be judged — and can be enriched or impoverished — by its relationship to those who are locked behind the walls of those prisons. I think our community needs to support gay and lesbian prisoners as much as the prisoners need the community's support.

Please write GCN and volunteer to begin work on the prison program. It's a central part of our fight for our liberation.

!VENCEREMOS!

Laura Whitehorn
#220-858 D.C. Jail 1901 D St. SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mike Riegler responds: Thank you for the kind words. Really, work can only be done in Boston. So check in if you are in the area.

An open letter from one within to those without

Dear GCN:

To be gay in prison in other people's eyes means that you are something to use, I mean like to get money by pimping you, get drugs from you or something to stick their dick in to get their nuts off.

Outside of all this you mean nothing to them at all.

And if you refuse to allow them to handle you in one of these ways then they try to hurt you physically cause they feel you have disrespected them.

But then again if you by chance decide to stand up to them and end up hurting someone then they all call you crazy.

It's hell on a gay in prison for they have no true friends at all other than their own self.

Then you get to feeling lonely and you write to a spot that deals with pen pals and someone on the outside sees your ad and read where you say that you are gay and in prison and they say hell, he is doing all right, he don't need no one to write — he is able to get all the d—— he wants, but they forget you are human and have feelings as everyone else

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Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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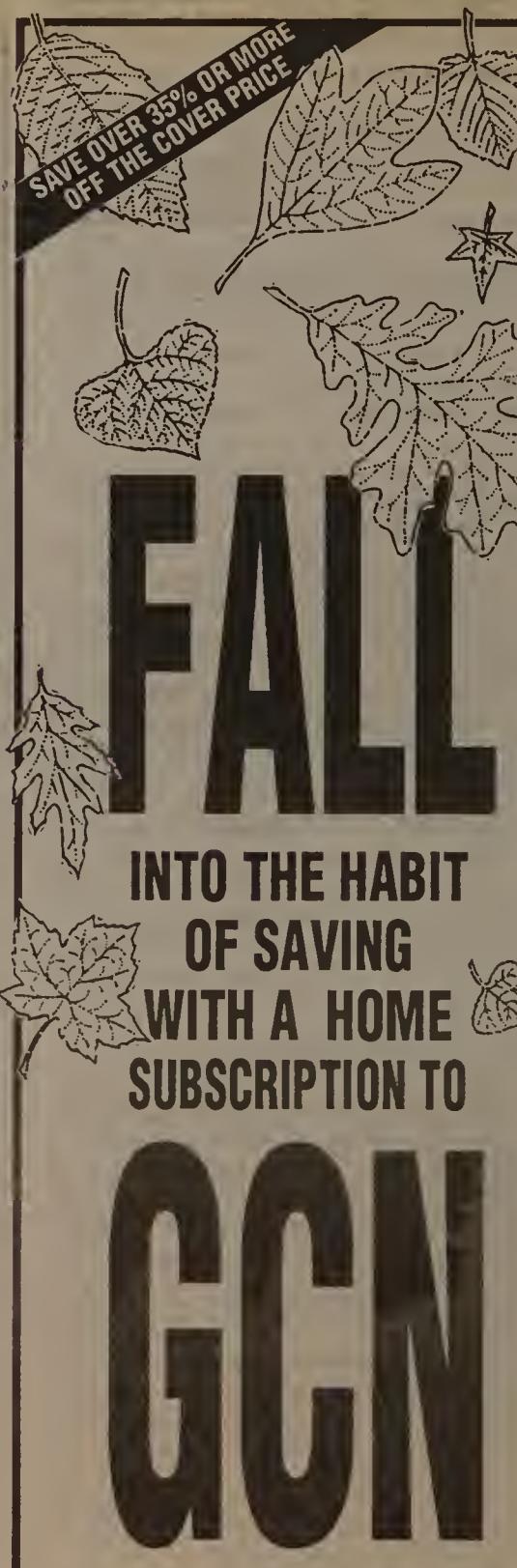
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does.

I can't speak for the gays in the free world for-- for the last 21 years of my life I've spent in prison and I am 38 now, but as for in prison I can speak, and it isn't only lonely but it is also hard as well.

Why can't someone in the free world for a stamp, the cost of a few sheets of paper and half an hour at most of their time out of a week, sit down and write a few lines, is that a lot to ask?

David Hoover
#28852-054
Lewisburg Federal Prison
P.O. Box 100
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Someone who cares

Dear GCN:

I'm having a friend write this out for me for I do not really know how to read, write and spell too well. I have AIDS and don't have too much longer to live. The estimated time I am predicted to live is under a year. I'm not looking for sympathy, just someone who cares and understands the predicament I'm facing. I feel very much alone and isolated and being treated unfairly as an equal as from my peers as well as the officers. They keep casing me up with D.R.'s to keep me in DC confinement and with my ignorance and lack of knowledge of law I can't fight back. I would attempt to, but I would mess everything up because these people don't understand or can't read my writing. A yellow copy of an original letter I wrote you is enclosed to show you all what I mean and proof of how I write. My friend David L. Nietzel Jr A-077780 here at F.S.P with me is writing this and reading it all to me and I attest to everything that he writes for me here. His help for me has been genuine and loyal. Not too many like him can be found in a place like this. He has witnessed the abuse I have been experiencing with these officers and my peers. I am in dire need of some friends and correspondents and any one in the state of Florida who can help me with law and file grievances and who is familiar with Florida Department of Corrections rules, regulations and proceedings and so forth. I need as much as support as I can get from others, morally, legally, and any other kind any can offer me. I have only myself to give to others. If I could give more, I would. The Disciplinary Courts are like Kangaroo Courts and I am guilty automatically before you enter and David himself has filed through the rightful proceedings and no compensation could he gain through the rightful proceedings, and no compensation he could gain from higher authorities. It's time for a change, time to fight the system's ways. The officers words are accepted as law on these reports. No matter how you fight back about your rights, your word doesn't mean crap to the Disciplinary Team. It's his word against yours and this leaves open a big gap of legal abuse since they can't get at you physically without getting away with it. The officers can lie and get away with it and you suffer the worst. I'm trapped and I need help. Please write me someone, I'm so lonely. PS S.A.S.E., first replies.

Francis Anker #494519
Florida State Prison
P.O. Box 747
Starho, Fla 32091

Lesbian & gay Italians unite!

Dear GCN:

I am trying to put together a new organization of Gay and Lesbian Italians. If GCN could provide some space to notify lesbians and gay men of Italian descent, it would be greatly appreciated. For more information, call 227-5363.

Joe Simone
Boston, Mass

Not all gay men and lesbian wish to lick CLT

Dear GCN:

The full page ad on the back page of the last issue of GCN (Oct 27-Nov 2) which called on readers to vote no on Question 3 contains a number of inaccurate assumptions about homosexualists, taxes, and the role of the government. First of all, not all "gay men and lesbians" wish to lick CLT. I, and many other homosexualists, do not support increased fees and taxes, even for "good" causes. I am aware that the government already robs (taxes) us to provide social services and health care to many who could not otherwise afford them, and in fact I work in a governmental health care facility, since this is the only place I've found where I can provide health care to people I enjoy working with and caring for. I also care for

GRUPO GAY DA BAHIA

Fundação: Salvador, 29-2-1980

Sociedade Civil: 24-2-1983, Reg. nº 822, Cart. 2º Oficio
Utilidade Pública Municipal: 8-5-1987, Lei nº 3725
Membro da International Lesbian & Gay Association

Caixa Postal 2552 — 40.020, Salvador, Bahia, Brasil 16-X-1990

Dear Editor

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS:

We, members of GRUPO GAY DA BAHIA, Brazil, want thank you again by sending us your excellent journal. At this moment, GCN is the only gay newspaper that our group receive from USA! We are the oldest and most active gay group in Brazil, until now we distributed 200.000 condoms, free, among gay community, and we just had our biggest victory: since April 1990 Bahia became the first town in Latin America where is forbidden to discriminate by sexual orientation.

Please, never suppress our name of your mailing list. With gay love and gratitude,

With Best Wishes

Mario Belio
Cida
Nelson
Augusto

Heleno de Oliveira
Ana Cristina
Paulo Henrique
José P. J. P.
J. M. P. J. P.

Heleno de Oliveira
Suzellyn Laura
Renato S. Stuart
Gustavo Vazquez
Monica Guilia
You be a hero

Paulo
YANNE
C. V. V. de Souza
Luis
J. C. S.

large numbers of HIV positive people. And, given that taxation exists, better that the state fund health care than the state cops, a clock for the State House, or the incarceration of drug users and sellers. However, not everyone wishes to put any more of their money into these sorts of social programs, and they should not be coerced into doing so. We should demand that the state more humanely spend the money it already extorts from us, instead of asking it to steal even more. Abolishing drug and prostitution laws, as well as disbanding the state cops (who seem most interested in participating in high speed auto chases, preferably ending in the death or maiming of those they pursue), would free up plenty of money for health care and other free services.

If the signatories of the ad are so willing to contribute their money to their favorite social program, why don't they spend their time and money setting up voluntary charities to fund them, instead of encouraging and assisting the government's theft of other people's money. There are, contrary to the assumptions of those who oppose Question 3, voluntary, non-statist ways to help people in need, as is attested to by the fact that Rosie's Place has been providing housing, food and other services to homeless women for years, with no government funding.

Finally, calling Question 3 "gay-bashing" is both inaccurate and dishonest. There is no reason to believe that anti-homosexual sentiment is motivating those who support CLT, and implying that it is a cheap, misleading way to garner support: a manipulative attempt to benefit from the current concern with real bias-motivated violence against homosexualists. Most of those affected in any way by any change in taxation will be heterosexuals, since that's what most people are. Simply because some homosexualists will also be adversely affected by certain state policies do not make those policies "gay bashing". Homosexualists will not be affected because of their sexual tastes, but simply because of their occupation or social situation. Labelling any injury, real or perceived, to any homosexualist as "gay bashing" will only lead to less willingness on the part of people to be sympathetic and supportive in situations where anti homosexual bias really is a factor.

Taxation is theft and we need to find non coercive ways to solve the problems we all face, instead of encouraging the expansion of government interference in our lives.

Joe Peacock
Boston

SAFER SEX AND DRUG USE GUIDELINES

GCN offers these guidelines for all of us who are making decisions about sex and drug use in the midst of the AIDS epidemic.

HIV is a virus widely thought to be a cause of AIDS. The highest concentrations of HIV are found in blood and semen. So it's important to avoid any way in which HIV-infected blood or semen can get from one person's body into another person's bloodstream.

- Fucking (anal and vaginal) without a condom and sharing needles account for almost all the documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Oral sex without a condom or dental dam accounts for a very few documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Other ways of transmitting HIV that have not been documented but which could be theoretically risky include: fisting, finger fucking, rimming, deep kissing, sharing uncleaned dildos. The theory here is that any way HIV-infected bodily fluids get from one person into another involves risk. For example, HIV could be transmitted if a person with a cut on their hand fistfucked their partner and caused bleeding in their rectum or vagina.

HOW TO PLAY SAFER

Only you can decide what risks you are willing to take. Some people use safer sex practices with all their partners. Other people make decisions about the risks they are willing to take based on their own and their partners' sexual and drug use history and/or HIV status. People also make decisions based on how comfortable they feel negotiating safer sex in any particular situation. If you and your partner have not talked about past practices and/or HIV status, don't make assumptions. (For example, many lesbians have had unprotected intercourse with a man in the last ten years.)

- Use a condom when fucking. On the condoms, use water-based lubricants like KY. Oil-based lubricants like Crisco, Vaseline, and baby oil may make condoms break.
- Use a condom when sucking dick if your partner is going to come in your mouth. If HIV-infected cum or pre-cum gets in your mouth, it may get in your bloodstream through cuts in your gums or sores in your mouth.
- Use dental dams (latex squares) when going down on a woman if she is having her period or has a vaginal infection. Menstrual blood and secretions from vaginal infections have more HIV than healthy vaginal secretions or urine. No information has been gathered about the concentration of HIV in "female ejaculate."
- Use latex gloves for fisting or finger-fucking if you have any sores or cuts on your hands.
- Keep semen and blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) out of your vagina, anus, mouth, or breaks in your skin.
- If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use a new condom each time, or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide or soap and water.
- Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Discuss this risk with potential donors or sperm banks.
- Massage, hugging, dirty talk, role-playing, masturbation (solo, with a partner, in a group) and other activities that don't let blood or semen into your bloodstream are safe.
- Alcohol, poppers or other drugs may lower your ability to make good decisions. Many people have reported that they have been unable to maintain safer sex practices after getting high.
- Good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol and other drugs may help you fight off illnesses, including AIDS.

INTRAVENOUS DRUG USE

- Don't share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers).
- If you must share or re-use works, clean them before and after each injection as follows: dip needle and works into bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into fresh water, draw up and release three times. In an emergency, rubbing alcohol or vodka can be used instead of bleach. Or you can boil works that aren't plastic in water for at least 15 minutes. (Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.)

RESOURCE NUMBERS

National AIDS Hotline: 1 (800) 342-7514

AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston: 1 (800) 235-2331

Latino AIDS Hotline (Bilingual), Boston: (617) 262-7248

AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York: (212) 807-6655

National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C.: (202) 544-1076

Women's AIDS Network, San Francisco: (415) 864-4376

Immigration

Continued from page 1

real advance in understanding HIV and how it's transmitted."

Finally, Frank said, he thought the passage of the pro-gay amendment was symbolically important, since the immigration restrictions were "the last explicitly anti-gay thing on our statute books."

'Too soon to say'

As a whole, the act is designed to reform earlier immigration policies. The measure provides for increases in visas to immigrants who want to work in the U.S., to immigrants who have relatives in this country, and to people from countries that have been traditionally under-represented in U.S. immigration.

Judy Rabinovitz, staff counsel for the Immigrants' Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said she wasn't sure what the broader implications of the bill might be if it became law. "I think it's really too soon to say," she told *GCN*. For instance, she said she was optimistic about the bill's new language concerning diseases, but wasn't certain how the new language would be interpreted.

The 1990 bill replaces the "dangerous contagious" diseases of the Helms amendment with the phrase, "communicable diseases of public health significance." The question, said Rabinovitz, is "what is a disease of public health significance?"

Among medical experts, said Rabinovitz, "most have said that testing and excluding HIV positive immigrants does nothing to aid the U.S. public health." Nonetheless, she said, a real political question remains--whether or not HHS and the INS will be willing to remove HIV and AIDS from the list of restrictions.

Frank said that if President Bush signs the bill into law, giving HHS the responsibility for considering the HIV/AIDS question, he is sure HHS will defer to current medical knowledge and keep HIV off any new listings of restrictions. "There's no way they're going to put HIV back on," he said.

'A real mixed bag'

In any case, observers said that even if the HIV/AIDS reform becomes reality, the new legislation is so sprawling that it was difficult to assess its merits in relation to its problems.

"It's a real mixed bag," said William Rubenstein, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "What happened with the lesbian and gay exclusion is terrific; but it's part of a larger bill, parts of which the ACLU did support, and parts of which we didn't."

Rubenstein did not elaborate on which parts of the bill ACLU did and did not support, but portions of the legislation seem to pose potential threats to civil liberties. Even as it dropped the lesbian/gay exclusion, for example, the act added new restrictions allowing the government to exclude immigrants based on "national security" concerns.

In terms of the struggle for lesbian and gay civil rights, though, Rubenstein said he thought the act was "a monumental achievement."

Oral sex

Continued from page 3

"If not," he says, "then you have your answer."

Brining said that, as elsewhere, there has been "an ongoing discussion about the risk of oral sex" at AAC, a debate that predates the recent studies. Unfortunately, he said, studies about oral sex are not easy to make use of in AIDS education. "It's difficult because to measure the risk of oral sex because it's difficult to isolate in relation to other activities — the group that only has oral sex is a small pool," he said.

In the end, said Brining, what is important is not so much the various statistics that research organizations periodically release, but the amount of responsibility people take for interpreting that information. For the sake of keeping people informed without making them panic, he said, "We need to be clear about what we say."

—filed from Boston

Pro-hets

Continued from page 3

the right-wing Madison Foundation—a group that features ultra-conservative national figures like William F. Buckley.

Collegiate Network members have repeatedly stirred up controversies on college campuses. Often, their actions have been condemned by university communities

as racist, sexist, and/or homophobic. In turn, conservative students have criticized administrators and students for trying to stifle an alternative voice.

Most recently, the *Dartmouth Review*, perhaps the most prominent member of the Collegiate Network, published an anti-Semitic quote by Adolf Hitler on Yom Kippur this fall. *Review* editors claimed the quote was slipped in without their knowledge, and insisted that Dartmouth President James Freeman was trying to use the incident to discredit and punish student conservatives for their political reviews.

According to Harvard student Michael Wartofsky, some *Peninsula* editors have tried to distance themselves from AALARM. He said that at a recent meeting of the student group Defeat Homophobia, a *Peninsula* editor told the audience that he felt AALARM was preaching anti-gay violence, which he distinguished from *Peninsula's* anti-homosexuality position. However, Wartofsky did tell *GCN* that an upcoming issue of *Peninsula* will focus on opposition to homosexuality.

In response to the blue square incident, lesbian and gay students at Harvard are planning to educate the campus about the significance of the pink triangle, according to Flatt. In addition, a poster campaign will focus on gay and lesbian definitions of community, faith, family, tradition, and country.

Heterosexuals Unite

At UMass, students are in the process of forming a Heterosexual Club. According to Lisa McMahon, president of the Lesbian/Gay/Bi Speak Out, the heterosexual group was founded by seven or eight students as a social club. Its existence was approved by the Student Senate, and the group was able to submit the necessary 120 signatures to the Student Life Office to become an officially recognized organization.

According to *Mass Media*, the UMass student newspaper, Heterosexual Club founder Marlene Murray denies that the formation of the club was an anti-gay gesture. Under pressure from the university administration, the group included a clause in its constitution that said they did not discriminate because of sexual orientation.

"Their name is not congruent with their stated purpose," McMahon told *GCN*. McMahon noted that there is no absence of places for heterosexuals to socialize at UMass, adding, "Most of mainstream society reflects heterosexual values."

McMahon said that the move came at a particularly bad time for the UMass Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Center. Many groups at the university, which has been besieged by eight budget cuts by the state legislature in two years, have emphasized coalition politics, working together on common issues. "We don't want to turn this into a divisive gay/straight thing," said McMahon. Other campus groups have supported the Center, and a letter opposing the Heterosexual Club as anti-gay was signed by all other existing student organizations at UMass.

McMahon said that the group's claims that it is not homophobic are specious. She said that students and teachers who were asked to support the club were reportedly told by Heterosexual Club organizers that homosexuality is "unnatural" and that the group does not want any of "them." "If they're not anti-gay, why won't they change their name?" asked McMahon.

Powell

Continued from page 3

and the District of Columbia.

Powell concurred, arguing that "there is no fundamental right" to practice homosexual acts. He pointed out that Hardwick had not been prosecuted, "much less convicted and sentenced."

It was "a close call," Powell told the *Washington Post* after the *National Law Journal* broke the story of his retraction. He said his vote had been based on the belief that the law had not been used for several decades. "That case was not a major case, and one of the reasons I voted the way I did was because the case was a frivolous case," said Powell. It was filed "just to see what the court would do."

Powell's revised view, said Rubenstein, is "an instance where the old axiom 'better late than never' isn't true. It's good that we have his vote now. It's too bad that it's now."

One of the four justices who dissented in the case, William J. Brennan Jr., has been replaced by David H. Souter, who was nominated by George Bush. Powell's seat is now held by Anthony M. Kennedy, a Reagan choice.

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BOOK SUPPLEMENT



Can sexology be saved?

Janice M. Irvine's *Disorders of Desire: Sex and Gender in Modern American Sexology* is a must-read for all sex/gender-conscious queer activists

Disorders of Desire: Sex and Gender in Modern American Sexology,
Janice M. Irvine, Temple University Press,
Philadelphia, 1990, 345 ppgs.

Reviewed by Sue Hyde

As a budding dyke in a small Midwestern town, I undertook my own investigation of sexology, or rather its output. My sources were the handbooks of American womanhood culture—*Ladies' Home Journal* and *Better Homes and Gardens* magazines. Sandwiched among the recipes, the fashion articles, and the many advertisements for '60s labor-saving devices were articles about sex (marital of course) and two-page short stories, bits of romantic fiction the busy domestic engineer could quaff with mid-morning coffee on break from household chores. Though coming at middle class life from different perspectives, both the sex articles and the romance stories offered the same medicine for the grinding ennui of heterosexual married family life: a prince of a husband/dad could not only provide life's necessities but also could satisfy the twin hungers for romance and very hot sex.

Later in life, as an organizer for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force working to repeal laws that criminalize private, adult, consensual sexual behavior, I was troubled and baffled by the steadfast refusal of sexological organizations to engage with our struggle. *Playboy* magazine, yes; American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT), no. Due to the frenetic pace of my work, I did not vigorously pursue groups like AAECT, especially after my initial contact with them was chilly. But where were the experts when we needed them?

Janice M. Irvine's excellent new book *Disorders of Desire* chronicles the field of sexology from the historical and cultural context of Kinsey's research in the '40s and '50s all the way up to contemporary research on gender development and wacko presto-change now-you're-straight conversion techniques. Merely placing sexology in the context it so stubbornly avoids would have been a major contribution, but Irvine far surpasses that, bringing a multi-layered lens to her subject. With wit and intelligence, she thoroughly examines sexology, applying

tenets of feminism, gay/lesbian liberation, deconstructionism, and sociology. By juxtaposing sexology's potential as a force for liberation of women and sexual minorities alongside the field's ongoing struggle for turf, talent and customers, Irvine reveals the contradiction of sexology and the disappointing records of our should-be allies.

From this book, I learned that sexology is unlikely ever to take up repeal of sodomy laws or effective safer sex education or recognition of a gender system with more than two "appropriate" genders because such suspect and controversial issues may contaminate the effort to gain scientific, professional and cultural legitimacy over sex. Make that heterosexual, marital, middle-class, educated and Caucasian sex, please. The market and money for sexology's services just isn't in the struggling political movement for gay and lesbian liberation.

From Kinsey to Masters and Johnson to Richard Green, the men (and few women) who have described, defined, and diagnosed sex and gender have done so with no apparent appreciation for social and political dynamics of sexual hierarchies or the phenomena of sexism and heterosexism. Irvine's analysis, on the other hand, sparkles with her keen understanding of the politics of sexuality. She throws most sexologists in ideological league with the worst Christofascists: Helms, Dannemeyer, Cameron and Bryant. But it isn't Irvine's invention. They've been cheek by jowl with the piggies of them. Helen Singer Kaplan, Theresa Crenshaw (you remember her; she was on Reagan's AIDS Commission), Masters and Johnson all threw their weight behind mandatory HIV testing, the attempt to discredit the concept of safer sex and the panic caused by theories supporting casual-contact transmission of HIV.

A more satisfying and intelligent read than most novels and a must-read for all sex/gender-conscious queer activists, *Disorders of Desire* made me laugh out loud a few times. Irvine opens with a look at the almost-hero Alfred Kinsey. Kinsey developed the now-famous 0-6 scale with which he discerned our favorite stat: 10% of us are.... But what many of us may not know is that Kinsey, eschewing the prevailing sex and gender politics of the post-World War II America, conducted his sex research "value-

Queer organizing in the unions

Pride at Work is a well-documented how-to manual for lesbian and gay union activists

Pride at Work: Organizing for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Unions, Miriam Frank and Desma Holcomb, Lesbian and Gay Labor Network, New York, 1990
\$5.00 paper, 100 pp.

Reviewed by Cyndi Koebert

As its title implies, *Pride at Work* is a virtual how-to manual for raising issues of lesbian and gay concern in the workplace. Published by the Lesbian and Gay Labor Network of New York City, authors Miriam Frank and Desma Holcomb map out a clear agenda for building awareness and support for domestic partner rights, including bereavement leave, health insurance benefits, pension benefits and AIDS education.

The book outlines specific steps to achieving these goals through union activism using a sampling of labor union initiatives, most notably in New York City. The book is successful in providing inspiration and direction for undertaking similar actions in other locals.

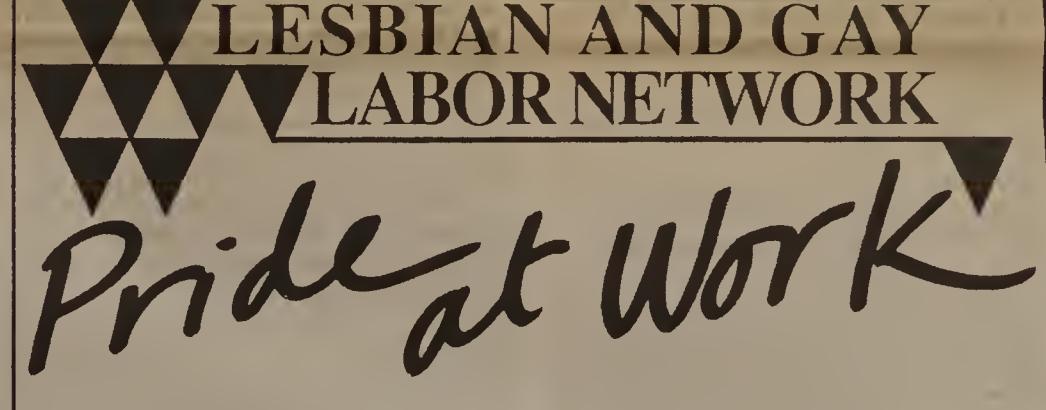
The book starts with the basic work that needs to be done — the initial steps of

brothers. We have proven through experience that domestic partner rights are not just a utopian dream but are becoming a contractual reality.

Winning complete domestic partner benefits will take time and the insurance industry must be taken on in the process. The longest-standing domestic partner health coverage policy was won by workers at the *Village Voice* in 1982. Author Desma Holcomb was involved in that struggle.

The authors illustrate examples of insurance industry bias, tax implications and the option of "self-insuring."

During its 1988 contract negotiations, the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (affiliated with District 65/UAW) in New York, proposed extending all family benefits, including insurance, to domestic partners. Management raised ideological objections to validating non-marital and gay relationships. But an organized gay and lesbian caucus within the union was able to mount enough pressure to win a joint union-management committee to study the issue. According to the authors, "Winning a joint study committee often feels like a defeat... but the



organizing a gay and lesbian caucus, fighting for non-discrimination clauses in contracts, and surveying the membership and organizing support within the local. The authors maintain that organizing skills developed in the lesbian and gay community can be effectively transferred to union work.

There are two major themes in *Pride at Work*: the struggle for domestic partner benefits and AIDS in the workplace. The authors studied bargaining victories, as well as stymied campaigns; effective programs as well as programs in crisis.

Domestic partner benefits

Seven cities have already legislated some form of domestic partner benefits and rights for public sector employees: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Berkeley, West Hollywood and Santa Cruz, Calif., Madison, Wisc., and Takoma Park, Md. Activists in Seattle, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Boston have been studying the issue and are developing proposals. In addition, 13 workplaces in the New York metropolitan area have negotiated some kind of domestic partner contract clause, but most of these (as well as most of the municipal contracts) do not include health insurance coverage. According to Frank and Holcomb,

Lesbian and gay organizing for domestic partner rights through contract negotiations, lawsuits and political action has only begun. Bereavement leave is appearing in more contracts and family sick leave will not be far behind. The obstacles we face are substantial: management's homophobia, reluctant unions (sometimes), concessions bargaining, biased family laws, and a discriminatory insurance system. But our organized presence in unions is growing, and our potential allies are many: straight couples, elderly, disabled, and progressive union sisters and

general union experience is that almost all major new family benefits (e.g. workplace child care centers) have been won only after such a joint study."

In another bargaining case for "spousal equivalent benefits," organizers failed in their efforts to achieve health insurance coverage but succeeded in their efforts to achieve spouse-equivalent bereavement leave. "Management belittled every other demand we made, but they knew better than to make light of AIDS and were silent about the spousal-equivalent bereavement leave," according to Sally Otos, a District 65/UAW Local Officer. Although this concession is not a costly benefit to the employer, it can pave the way for further domestic partner benefits.

AIDS in the workplace

Although Frank and Holcomb describe fact sheets and seminars initiated by union leaders in some detail, they conclude that "the actual dearth of AIDS educational programs in most union settings is alarming." An SEIU survey revealed that many members working in New York City health care facilities are not getting AIDS training, protective equipment or information about guidelines from employers. Unions representing hospital workers, such as 1199 and SEIU, have developed workers' AIDS education programs. But with 100,000 members and two staff trainers, 1199 finds it difficult to reach everyone or to teach more than the basics.

While both management and labor can provide information about the realities and risks of the AIDS epidemic, *Pride at Work* maintains labor can do more. The authors state,

Union leadership has the responsibility to prevent

Continued on page 11

Continued on page 10

The trouble with Harry Hay...

And troublesome anthologies. Two new books: one a fascinating biography, the other a sloppy collection of critical essays



Harry Hay, 1935

The Trouble with Harry Hay: Founder of the Modern Gay Movement

Stuart Timmons
Allyson Publications, Boston 1990
\$19.95 cloth, 317 pp.

Lesbian and Gay Writing: An Anthology of Critical Essays

Edited by Mark Lilly
Temple University Press, Philadelphia, 1990
\$24.95 cloth, 218pp.

Reviewed by Donald Stone

In his introduction, Stuart Timmons defines the trouble with Harry Hay as "his refusal to adapt to a reality that he found unacceptable." The biography that follows charts Hay's relentless attempt—through the Communist Party, the Mattachine Society, the Radical Faeries and much more—to make reality more accepting of progressive causes and above all, more responsive to the needs of gay men. It is a remarkable story, filled with famous names and famous events in the history of American Left and gay activism. Given that Hay cooperated extensively with Timmons in the preparation of the book, it could also have become a gaudy apotheosis. However, as told in Timmons' clear and sober style, the life of Harry Hay chronicles few victories, multiple defeats, and long struggles. Some struggles Hay brought on himself. (Timmons does not shrink from suggesting how the strain of arrogance and hot temper in Harry contributed to serious rifts between Hay and co-workers in the movement. But the high drama of the biography Hay initiated only in so far as he persisted in the desire to live life as himself, that is, as, simultaneously, a political person, a gay man, and an idealist.)

The world Harry Hay came out to could accommodate some but not all facets of his personality. He could agitate for some political causes through the Communist Party but the Party would not knowingly accept homosexuals. He could find sex aplenty but it tended to thrive among apolitical, bitchy cliques that did not share Hay's activism and even ridiculed his dream of a gay utopia. These impasses, according to Timmons, explain Hay's long marriage to Anita Platky. It gave him legitimacy to continue his political work within the Communist Party and sidestepped the pain of incompatible pairings with male partners. But Hay's attraction to men would not go away, and when he met architect Bill Alexander, it nearly ended the straight marriage. Alexander, however, had no interest in going with Hay to Party meetings. The old pattern

reasserted itself and Harry again chose activism.

As this rapid summary shows, all of Hay's difficulties did not stem from the homophobic attitudes of a straight society. He had to contend with the gay world as well and Timmons gives us an engrossing account of that world as it existed between the wars, complete with tensions that plagued Hay and, in some measure, still spark debate within the gay community. It is hard to imagine today that Hay met with fierce opposition when he spoke of gay men as a minority, but, in his own words, "They said I was making 'niggers' out of them." Others complained that the idea "diminished individuality" and, once admitted, would signify that gay men "were in an inferior position." For two years Hay could find no one to support the formation of a group that would "bring homosexuals together for the purpose of self-understanding and...to recognize their contribution to humanity." Even when the Mattachine Society was at last a reality, a conservative wing eventually forced Hay and other "Reds" to resign. Years later Hay would find life in the Radical Faeries no less tumultuous.

"I've built up the dream so often, only to see it torn down," Hay once observed to Timmons. This gloomy declaration would seem to clash with the notion of Hay as the "Founder of the Modern Gay Movement." But whereas organizations come and go, Hay's ideas have lingered and grown to define many of the goals of the gay movement. In this sense he is its founder and transcends the particular fate of any one group or society he fostered.

Hay's genius combines intelligence, vision and tenacity. At any moment in time he was unerringly ahead of his time. With the Stonewall riots he felt the East had done no more than catch up with the activism of the West Coast, an amusing reaction when one thinks how long it took the West Coast to catch up with Harry Hay. From the concept of homosexuals as a minority, to advocacy for victims of police entrapment, to the need for a group to promote gay comradeship and explore the gay identity, Harry seems to have spoken the idea first, then struggled to keep it alive until it was no longer new or strange but simply right. And the process continues. In 1980, when still a college student, Timmons encountered Hay at a Radical Faerie meeting and blurted out his admiration for the famous sexagenarian. Hay responded: "You know, you probably wouldn't be talking to me at all if we were

Continued on page 11

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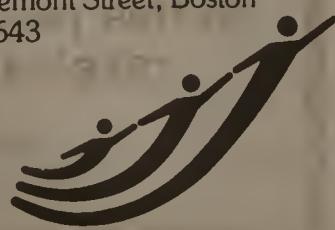
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3,000 years of homosexuality in China

Before Western intervention, gay sex flourished openly

Passions of the Cut Sleeve:

The male homosexual tradition in China

Bret Hirsch

University of California Press, Berkeley, 1990

\$22.50 cloth, 256pp.

Reviewed by Wayne Curtis

One of the few effective antidotes to the invisibility of people of color in the lesbian and gay community—as well as the notion that being queer is a "white man's evil"—is well-researched history. Bret Hirsch's *Passions of the Cut Sleeve: The male homosexual tradition in China* is a brief overview of three thousand years of Chinese homosexuality. Hirsch reveals that ancient Chinese people, based on sketchy written records of the lives of their emperors, accepted male homosexuality as a natural part of life, institutionalized it, romanticized it and integrated it into the society's larger need for procreation.

One of the earliest and most influential legends regarding a ruler's male favorite originates in the Zhou dynasty (1122-256 B.C.). The Duke of Wei took a handsome man named Mizi Xia as his lover. Hirsch quotes the ancient text which relates the tale of Mizi Xia, and this episode in particular: "Another day Mizi Xia was strolling with the ruler in an orchard and, biting into a peach and finding it sweet, he stopped eating and gave the remaining half to the ruler to enjoy. 'How sincere is your love for me,' exclaimed the ruler. 'You forgot your own appetite and think only of giving me good things to eat!'"

The story is rich in erotic symbolism while proving the steadfastness of Mizi Xia's love. Later in life he met a tragic end because of the fickleness of the ruler, but for thousands of years thereafter the name Mizi Xia and the love of the "half-eaten peach" became literary synonyms for homosexuality.

The historical records Hirsch uses for most of this book are fragmentary and reflect only a small group at the very top of ancient Chinese society. This is not a fault in Hirsch's research; like most cultures, ancient Chinese scribes concerned themselves with court life, politics, military adventures, and the life of the emperors themselves.

However, the Chinese usually included a chapter on imperial favorites, and here Hirsch finds tale after tale of handsome young men catching the ruler's eye and becoming either a sexual plaything or an emotionally-bonded lover. Like tales of royal favorites from any court, these men sometimes abused their privileges and were ousted, and sometimes lost their position through the jealousy of others. Importantly, Hirsch finds that many early historians who recorded these deeds did not feel that such male-male couplings in the royal household were unusual or reprehensible.

The Emperor Ai of the Han dynasty (6 B.C.-1 A.D.) was the source of another of China's most touching tales of gay love. One day he and his lover, Dong Xian, took a nap together. When the emperor awoke, Dong Xian was still sleeping, stretched across the sleeve of the imperial robe. "Because he did not want to disturb him, the emperor cut off his own sleeve and got up. His love and thoughtfulness went this far!" When the story circulated at Ai's palace, all his courtiers cut off one sleeve from their tunics to honor the emperor's love for Dong Xian. "Cut Sleeve" then entered the Chinese vocabulary as a term for homosexual love.

Although the love stories of Dong Xian and Mizi Xia are touching, Hirsch also includes a chapter on homosexuality in bawdy humor. It is impossible to date when these jokes were popular, but they offer a glimpse of gay life below the level of the palace:

A youth was seduced by a man for the first time, and it was very painful. He ran about wildly for a few hundred steps, showing his ass to passersby and asking, "Excuse me sir, but look and tell me, please, is the prick still in there?"

There was [an older man] on very good terms with a favorite, and when [the favorite] grew up [the older man] chose a wife for him. Having done this [the older man] moved freely within the family circle and didn't avoid anyone. One day he was just entering the

Passions
of the
Cut
Sleeve

bedroom when the wife's mother chanced to visit, so she asked her daughter, "Which relative is he?" "He's my husband's husband," the wife replied.

Not until he reaches the seventeenth century and the late Ming dynasty (deposed in 1644) and the Qing dynasty (1644-1912) does Hirsch find sources that seriously reflect Chinese life at lower levels. Although some medieval rulers had imported a more moralistic view and tried to outlaw homosexual relations between men, it seems clear from these sources that they did not succeed. Gay sex, although bound by ancient customs regarding social position and age, flourished. Religious cults based on gay sex, lesbian nunneries, classic literary homoerotic works of poetry and fiction all existed in China during this period, and the tradition of gay sex in the palace extended right up to Pu Yi (something that didn't make it into the recent film *The Last Emperor*).

What happened to this tradition? Why did it die? Why is Chinese culture—less than a century later—virulently homophobic? Hirsch believes it is the influence of the Western Christian missionaries who invaded China during the nineteenth century. Western visitors to China from Marco Polo onward had commented, many with disgust, on the prevalence of homosexual relations. As the imperial government weakened and European powers dismembered China during the late 1800s, the pious representatives of a homophobic church moved in for the kill. With China's culture at a low point, its people demoralized and sedated by opium while fascinated by Western science, the old ways could be easily forgotten. When the Communist regime took over in 1949, it removed the religious overtones, but the anti-gay politics remained.

Passions of the Cut Sleeve is an illuminating, fascinating, and ultimately tragic look at the loss of a gay tradition that surpasses the legacy of the ancient Greeks. It is a timely rediscovery that should give gay Asian people a welcome look at their cultural origins, while reminding gay Caucasian people that other societies have had homosexual renaissances, only to lose them to repression. Although male-oriented, because of the nature of the historical record, Hirsch's work includes a chapter on lesbianism and what little Chinese history tells us of love between women.

While there is much to praise about *Passions of the Cut Sleeve*, including its readable prose style, I wish Hirsch had seen fit to go into greater depth in his chapter on the Qing dynasty to better elaborate on the variety of sources that were available. While this period produced extant records unparalleled by earlier dynasties, the chapter covering it is about the same length as the others, giving the reader the impression that much of this material was glossed over. Hopefully this material will be covered in greater detail in another book.

In the meantime, *Passions of the Cut Sleeve* is an important contribution to the growing body of historical knowledge of homosexuality around the world and deserves a wide readership.

Desire

Continued from 7
free."

Kinsey declared: "The world is not divided into sheep and goats"; he challenged the concept of the vaginal orgasm; he said homosexuality was simply one among many forms of sexual expression; he said laws regulating private, adult, consensual behavior ought to be repealed; he recognized that women were equal partners with their husbands in sex and life; and he set a sterling example of resistance to prevailing politics by forging ahead with his research despite harassment, derision, and threats of Congressional investigation and intervention by the U.S. Post Office.

Despite Kinsey's groundbreaking contribution of releasing the systematic study of sex from some of its cultural constraints, his work is not without problems and contradictions. Irvine points out that his research was hardly "value-free." He took an essentialist view toward sexuality, thus disqualifying it from the social and political world, despite his position on sodomy law repeal. His research subjects were white and middle-class and well-educated, thus he failed to gather, much less describe or analyze, the experiences of large segments of the U.S. population. Kinsey is most interested in sexology's potential to shore up the institution of heterosexual marriage. Irvine points out that pure science wielded by Kinsey was a sword with two edges: science liberated Kinsey's thinking from the sexual politics of his day; and science prevented Kinsey from seeing sex as a part of culture. Nonetheless, women and gay/lesbian people have not had a better friend since Kinsey, who checked his cultural biases toward heterosexuality by understanding that sex is a necessity of life for all people, almost on par with food or sleep.

Enter Masters and Johnson. As a youngster cruising the women's mags, it was most often M & J's work that I found, and now I know why. Irvine explains that while Kinsey had been somewhat released by his science, Masters and Johnson delivered the scientific study of sex to medicine. Their vision of sexuality, even marital, was framed by medicine's culture of illness and cure at a time when people increasingly entrusted themselves to doctors. Their focus on the "marital bed" and the goings-on within it led them to develop clinic programs with which they successfully treated various sexual problems between husbands and wives. They became purveyors of technique and helped women and men to have more satisfying sex, but Irvine's description of their hostility towards women as a class of people, their staunch anti-feminism, their unflinching presumption of heterosexual supremacy gave me the creeps.

From Masters and Johnson, it only gets worse for us as Irvine details sexology's response to the reports of Shere Hite on heterosexual women, the promotion of the G-spot, and the AIDS crisis. Of particular interest to GCN's readers will be sexology on the AIDS crisis. Never has the most logical source of sound and sensible information on a very difficult subject said so little that was helpful, sensible or "value-free." Irvine details the debate within sexology over AIDS, safer sex, and safer sex education. In what sounds very much like an AIDS activist disruption of a governmental hack's misinformation, distortion and hideous politics, we find Michael Sheroff and Margie Nichols—two sex therapists and educators from our community—at a 1987 AASECT conference shouting from the floor to present views other than those of Kaplan/Crenshaw/M & J. At this meeting, Crenshaw said, "I don't really mind if the right-wing leaders want to limit sexual practices to monogamy for religious reasons, if we want to limit them scientifically and the net result is the same." Gay members of AASECT seized control of the 1988 conference, making for a very different discussion of AIDS amongst sexologists. But, as Irvine points out, the fact that control needed to be seized in order to escape such mindless homophobia does no credit to the field of sexology nor to its organizations.

Irvine devotes a good portion of her book to gender research, research on the origins of homosexuality and transsexualism, and the sex reassignment surgery industry. Once again, queers of all kinds take it on the nose. Gender research is the theoretical home of programs claiming to "cure" homosexuality. Irvine strikes at the heart of the matter when she writes, "Despite Masters and Johnson's claims that homosexuality was an acceptable lifestyle, their implementation of a treatment program to convert gay people conveyed legitimacy to homophobic attacks. The

inherent superiority of heterosexuality was implicit in that they developed no programs facilitating the 'free choice' of heterosexuals to convert to homosexuality."

She exposes the intent and outcome of much research on transsexualism and sex reassignment therapies. Irvine argues that the impetus for this research is to "quantify and delineate maleness and femaleness in a context of anxiety about what constituted 'appropriate' development and behavior." Researchers wanted to look at the most differently gendered and sexually dissident people in order to grasp better—and control—the development of masculinity, femininity and ultimately heterosexuality. They were not shy about admitting that they intended to make strides in this project by using the minds and bodies of women and men tormented by gender dissonance which leads many to seek sex reassignment surgery and/or therapy. One researcher referred to transsexuals as "natural experiments," sacrificial lambs to the cause of rigidifying two polar gender roles—male and female. After studying these adults, gender doctors turned their attention to behavior modification programs to change "gender inappropriate" behaviors in boy children: Drs. Frankenstein to the rescue of anxious parents of little sissy boys. This recent attention to "correcting" the behavior of kids so that none will turn out queer is the most disturbingly homophobic element of a most disturbingly homophobic field of human science.

Can this profession be saved? Irvine says that a small cohort of feminist and gay/lesbian sexologists is attempting political change from within the field. Despite some doubts about the effectiveness of such a strategy, Irvine maintains that internal criticism is very important, especially in the light of AIDS, women's sexual behavior, and "cures" for homosexual behavior and "sissy boys." But Irvine also calls for a "more powerful vision and a multiplicity of voices in the cultural discourse on sex," creating a constant external challenge to sexology's adherence to majoritarian sexual culture. From our own movement, we offer the recent uproar over Mapplethorpe, resistance to police interference in adult consensual sexual activity, attempts to repeal or reform sodomy laws, safer sex education, and internal discussions about the quality and meaning of our own sexualities. Irvine invites us all to add our voices to the cacophony about sexuality and politics and culture. We cannot be silent, since in this decade past, sexuality and the freedom to be sexual have been elevated to survival issues for us. We know now that our lives depend on our ability to speak, to be heard, to be seen, and yes, to fuck. Goodbye, *Ladies' Home Journal*.

NEA

Continued from page 1

almost empty Senate chamber, it was later dropped by the conference committee.

NEA Restrictions on Artists

On Oct. 27, the NEA announced that it would allow the no obscenity "pledge" that artists were required to sign to expire at the same time that the new appropriations measure takes effect. NEA spokesperson Kathy Christie told GCN that the so-called pledge was part of an 11-page summary of federal laws governing artists, and that when the appropriations bill with the Helms amendment expires, it will be removed from the document.

The NEA's decision to consider the Helms amendment as a regulation governing artists was a somewhat arbitrary one, however. The no-obscenity, no-homoeroticism language did not apply to artists per se, but to the NEA. According to Radecic, last year's appropriations act did not require the NEA to require artists to sign a document promising to act within the terms of the Helms amendment.

According to Nan Hunter, who recently resigned as the head of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, there are currently three lawsuits pending against the NEA over the existence of the no-obscenity pledge. Hunter is representing four artists who were denied grants last year, Holly Hughes, Karen Finley, John Fleck, and Tim Miller, because of the homoerotic and political content of their material.

Hunter said that the change in the NEA policy had no effect on their case. These artists, said Hunter, "are being affected by a much deeper chill" than the appropriations bill can address. She added that they were denied funding, and subsequently, bookings in many cities, because of an attack on all "politically controversial art."

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Harry Continued from page 8



Harry Hay today
back at their world, at some gay bar." Right on, Harry!

Mark Lilly introduces the ten essays of this anthology with an angry voice that deplores the imperfect, even hostile treatment gay authors have generally received from "heterosexist and homophobic critical writing." He also expresses the hope that his anthology will be useful in reversing those wrongs and in replacing the twisted or suppressed interpretations of the past with the insights that openly homosexual critics can bring to lesbian and gay literature.

How the ten British writers of the anthology (five women and five men) go about implementing this goal varies dramatically from essay to essay. It is obvious that Lilly imposed no single format or style on his contributors. By most standards, however, Rupert Smith's hardhitting analysis of the social and political implications behind pornographic fiction in British gay magazines during the 1970s deserves special note. So, too, Gillian Spragg's intelligent analysis of the lesbian theme in the poetry of Sylvia Townsend Warner and Valentine Ackland. Other essays discuss Ivy Compton-Burnett, Maureen Duffy, Ann Bannon, Tennessee Williams and Ronald Firbank, as well as contemporary lesbian erotic poetry and alienation and paradox in selected gay male writers.

Lilly's introduction also touches on what he calls the book's "narrow focus," by which he means that the anthology is a book of essays on homosexual authors written by homosexual critics speaking to a homosexual audience. How each critic chooses to address the reader is another aspect of the anthology that emerges differently in different essays. Although all might be called political because of their evident concern to raise issues of relevance to a homosexual public, some append their political message to an appreciative assessment of the material analyzed, whereas others intermingle analysis and politics. (I think in particular of Caroline Halliday's essay, which contains both a portrait of changes taking place in lesbian erotic poetry and discussion of developments that she feels need to occur.) A few offer sustained discussion of the announced topic; others grow by accretion, showing all the ways Firbank alludes to homosexuality, all the negative qualities Compton-Burnett attributes to the family, etc. By allowing, and perhaps even encouraging, independence among his contributors, Lilly has already made an important political statement, but not without raising certain troublesome questions.

One concerns style. Judging by the text we are offered, neither editor nor publisher felt any need to review the language of the authors. Did Lilly choose to ignore sentences in which subject and predicate do not agree ("The ingenuity ... were often limited") or to impenetrable turns of phrase because he thought a homosexual audience wouldn't care or wouldn't know the difference? Either way he insults us and weakens the effectiveness of a volume that is expected to speak with a proud, legitimate voice. It would be nice to support that voice; we would like to understand it. But when we read, to quote a single example, "while we may no longer take recourse in the solutions of biology..." there is no knowing whether the author intended "take refuge in" or "have recourse to" or yet another very different possibility.

It is also clear from the volume that the "narrow focus" Lilly refers to can foster a movement away from literature and closer to politics. Lilly's own study of two plays by Tennessee Williams reduces the works in question to elements that allow Lilly to speak of the plays as "gay texts." Through

Blanche duBois, according to Lilly, Williams depicts gay desire as an impulse that must forever hide itself. Williams' portrait then becomes the bleakness of life in the closet and permits Lilly to make his parting remark: "Now, in literature and life, we must ... let in the light." To his credit, Lilly does say that he is offering only "one reading" of Williams, but the absence of any other possible interpretation from his discussion only highlights Lilly's lack of interest in the richness of *A Street Car Named Desire* or in gay writer Tennessee Williams. Lilly wants to condemn the closet and Williams becomes the means to that end. Of course, Lilly has every right to voice his opinions, but is there not something strange, even disquieting about the way his call for an end to the distortions of past criticism produces its own truncated and self-interested analysis?

Union

Continued from page 7

discrimination against brothers and sisters who contract AIDS. To do that properly and effectively, union leadership has to educate itself and the membership about the realities and risks of the disease.

Frank and Holcomb advocate an AIDS program for labor. The outline includes: 1) Train union staff and officers; 2) Mobilize the labor education resources of the city to make AIDS education a top priority; 3) Distribute education materials that carry the union message; 4) Use the labor press to spread the word; and 5) Encourage gay and lesbian union members to come out.

Fundraising efforts in the unionized entertainment industry and coalitions between gay activist groups, such as Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP and Health and Safety groups in support of a strong OSHA standard, are other initiatives emphasized in the book.

The Lesbian and Gay Labor Network has been meeting since 1986 and has been active in New York City on many of the issues described in the publication. A similar organization, the Gay and Lesbian Labor Activist Network (GALLAN) exists in Boston (GALLAN, P.O. Box 1430, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130). Both groups are resources available to gay and lesbian trade unionists interested in these issues. In addition, the authors have included a resource list of contacts on anti-gay discrimination, non-discrimination clauses, gay and lesbian committees in unions, private legal advocacy groups, bargaining for domestic partner benefits, domestic partner legislation, union fundraising for AIDS, AIDS health and safety issues, AIDS education in unions and AIDS discrimination. If you are a member of a union and concerned with these issues, *Pride at Work* will lend focus to your thinking and help you "wake up your union," if you're ready to do the necessary work to move these issues up your union's agenda.

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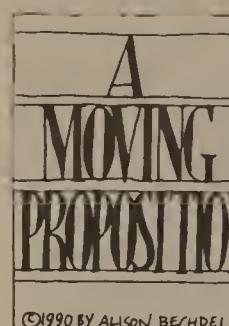
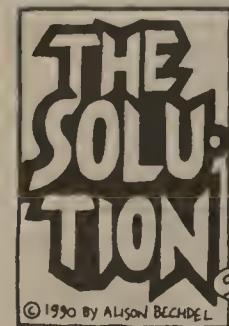
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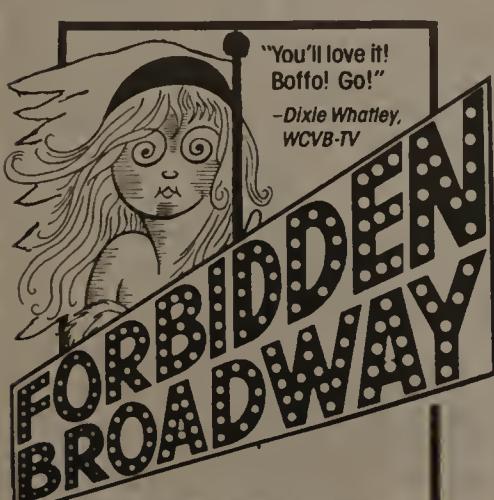
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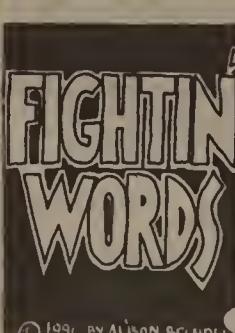
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| I - Financial (banking, accountant...) | T - Computer | 7 - Writer/Poet/Playwright |
| J - Business Owner | U - Student | 8 - Retired |

INTEREST AREAS

CHOOSE the mail you want by entering a letter in each box. Use the darker box for what you are most interested in. Use the lighter box for your second choice.

WHO ARE YOU?

A - Woman D - Man

WHO CAN MAIL TO YOU?

A - Individual women & women's organizations (no men)
B - Everyone
C - Women's organizations only (no individuals)
D - Women's & mixed organizations (no individuals)

POLITICAL CANDIDATES

A - Yes, feminist political candidates may mail to me B - No

WOMEN'S CULTURE

A - Music E - Art/Crafts M - Women's Books
B - Films/Videos H - Photography P - New Age
C - Dance/Theater L - Spirituality Z - Most of the above

RECREATION/SPORTS

A - Team Sports I - Martial Arts P - Retreats/Festivals
B - Individual Sports J - Title IX R - Vacation/Travel
H - Wilderness M - Fitness/Running Z - Most of the above

LEGAL/POLITICAL

A - Disability Rights E - ERA T - Animal Rights
B - Peace F - Reproductive Rights U - Global Feminism
C - Ecofeminism I - Ageism Z - Most of the above
D - Racism/Anti-Semitism S - Homeless/Hunger

HEALTH

A - Abortion/Birth Control
B - Therapy/Counseling
C - Recovery/Substance Abuse
D - Women's Clinics

EDUCATION

A - Women's Studies
D - Personal Growth Workshops

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A - Rape/Domestic Violence
B - Pornography
D - Incest/Child Abuse

WORKPLACE ISSUES

D - Childcare/Parental Leave
G - Professional Groups/Unions
H - Comparable Worth

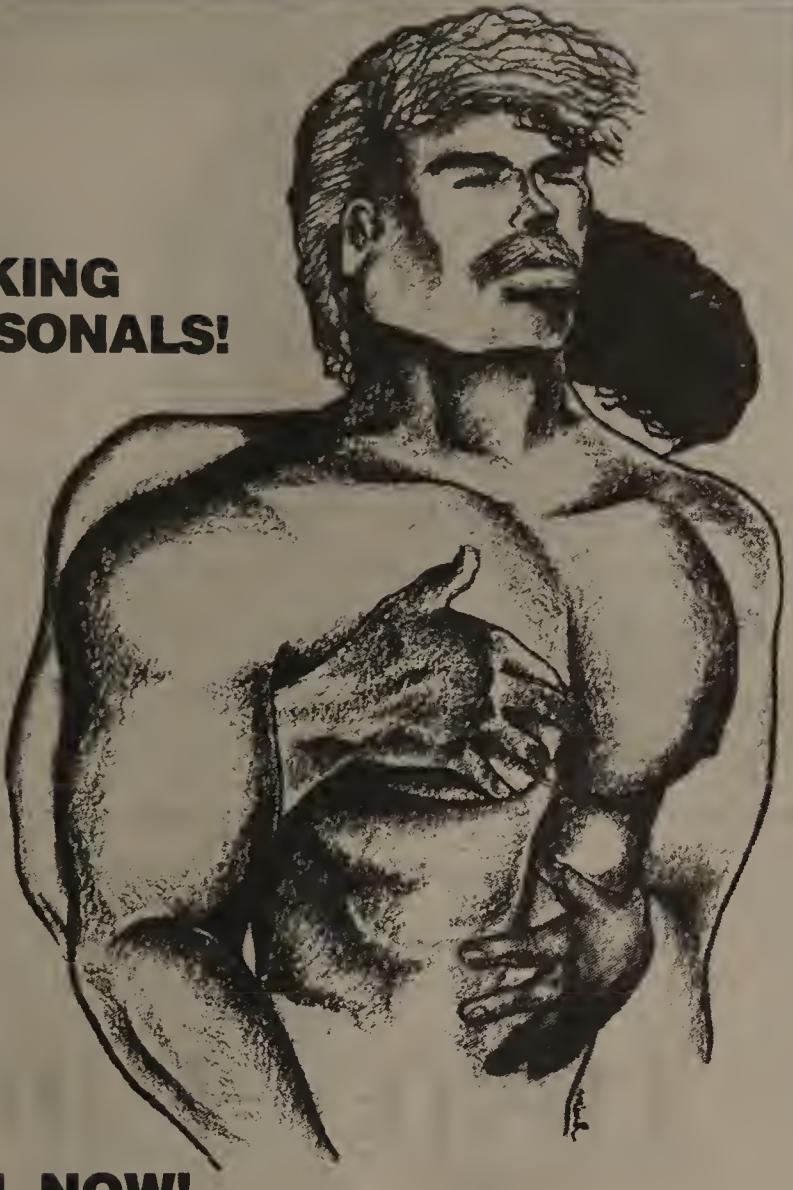
LESBIAN (Yes, send me mail on this subject)

WOMEN OF COLOR (Yes, send me mail on this subject)

Where did you get this form? _____

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WBP

Continued from page 3

we found only a few we could even try." The funding sources are further restricted because WBP is a national organization and some Minnesota funding is directed to state-wide enterprises.

"WBP has always done best with grassroots fundraising," Schneider said. "That's how we got started. We passed the hat at Michigan Womyn's Music Festival 1980."

"It's all energy. It's all work. We don't exist on money," she said.

"This is a collective enterprise. It's about blind women and disabled women. We're doing it ourselves and we're doing it with the help of other people. It's a way of enlarging the feminist community," said Franchild. "Blind women are needed by the feminist communities. It's not just a charity."

WBP is the only press in the United States that is devoted to making the voices of women of color, lesbians, women with disabilities, and the ideas of the feminist movement accessible to women who are blind or print-disabled.

WBP material, which includes poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, is about 75 percent lesbian in content. For example, some of the periodicals available to subscribers are *Lesbian Connection*, *Lesbian Contradiction*, and *Sinister Wisdom*.

WBP relies on the cooperation of publishers to help make periodicals available. With 5000 legally blind people in Minnesota, there are an estimated 500 blind lesbians and gay men, and double that amount with visual impairment. None of the lesbian or gay periodicals in Minnesota are available on tape. Schneider said she has to rely on lesbian and gay radio programming for news of the gay community.

People who are disabled and who are lesbian or gay face special obstacles of lack of access and isolation. "I want gay people to hear that disabled people deal with sexuality and can [also] be gay," Zelvin said. "There's a particular issue involved. When someone decides they're coming out, what a blind person has access to is very different. If you're blind, who can you get to read the yellow pages of where the bars are? Even hotlines send print mail. Who do you get to read your print mail?"

Even for those who are out, many lesbian and gay activities, such as noisy bars or athletic teams, present obstacles for blind people. "So many activities, people think we should just do," Zelvin said. "It's not that we can't. It's just that we need cooperation and help."

WBP recently received a subscription from a deaf and blind woman in her fifties. "She's always been in the closet. She's never been able to learn about the lesbian community," Schneider said. "Think of what she has been deprived of and how unfair that is."

"We've gotten some subscribers at a really young age," Schneider said. "I'm glad we did. Think of women in their late teens and in college. There's a real difference in what is available now compared to what was available before we existed. We've made a real difference in their lives."

"People worry that access is going to interfere with fun," Zelvin said. "Access makes life easier for everyone. The spirit that goes into that creates good energy."

"It's not just about we exist and we're doing this charitable thing," Franchild said. "It's about a revolution."

For more information, contact the WBP at (612) 822-0549.

- NOTE -

**GCN WILL BE
NOT PUBLISH A
PAPER THE WEEK
OF NOV. 34-30.
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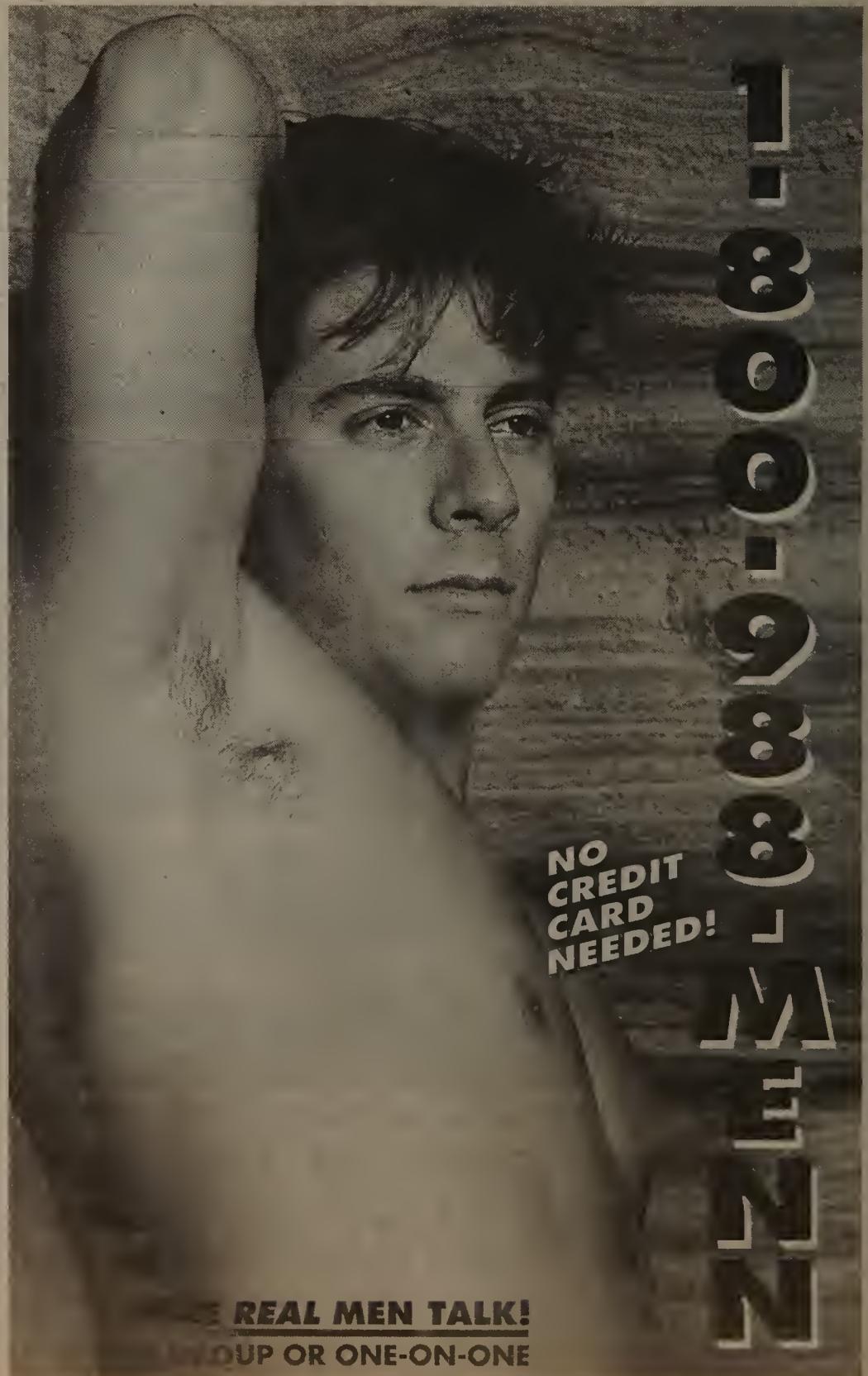
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TEELLE SQUARE

LF seeks L for sunny, spacious 5 rm. apartment. Porches, close to Davis Sq. T. No smoke, pets, drugs. \$275/mo. plus sec. Call 628-3216. (17)

MEDFORD SQUARE

2 GL seeks 1 GL to share house. Pets ok. No drugs. \$365 includes utilities, near T/bus. Avail. Nov. 1.(617) 391-7796 (19)

PROVINCETOWN FREE RENT

GWM, 26, seeks houseboy/roommate (GM 18+) for Cambridge apartment. Free rent in exchange for 10-15 hours per week of household/clerical chores. Box 399 (18)

F/M roommate wanted to live w/ LF in large Allston apt. \$425/mo. Apt. is huge w/2 porches, GIK LR & DR, in all gay bldg. No smoking/ drugs. Call Terri 782-2665 (18)

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MELROSE: Handsome mahogany furnished room in large, updated, fine Victorian home. Central air, washer/dryer, offstreet parking, cable, deck, gardens, and many extras. Enjoy the quiet, security, spaciousness of the suburbs while only 17 minutes to downtown Boston from convenient T stop. Nonsmoking males. \$395 incl. utilities. 665-6082 (17)

JAMAICA PLAIN NEAR ARBORETUM

Lesbian and cat seek moderately neat and quiet professional lesbian for 2BR apartment with study. \$397.50 includes heat. 522-6012 evenings. No machine; please keep trying. (17)

ARE YOU LOOKING?

We have an opening for a third roommate to share rent and expenses. We are located in Dorchester, on the Red line. Safe neighborhood, and on street parking. Call 288-4468 or 426-4469 (ask for Frank). Rent is \$400 per month plus util. and phone. Short-term ok! (17)

APARTMENTS

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One bedroom, four room apt., hardwood floors, newly decorated first floor room for small garden. New gas heat, yard, porches, sunny, quaint, non-smoker, no pets. \$650. Lease days. 648-3000, evenings 625-8274. (17)

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Lux. renovated 1-1/2 bedroom(den) windows 4 sides. Huge Lr/Dr with glazed walls. Huge kitchen, W/D hook-ups, large deck, off-street pkg., 2 min to T. Dorchester \$650/mo. +, 282-3146 (17)

D.C. BOUND?

Capital Hill apartment available on monthly basis. Fully furnished, private entrance, near subway. \$500 includes utilities. Call (202) 543-5079. (17)

South Boston, two large 2 bedroom apts., carpeted, deck, 1 block from Andrew Sq. Red line, \$650+ utilities, no fee. Steve 924-4248. (17)

JAMAICA PLAIN

2 bedroom near T. porch, hardwood floors, washer, dryer. Lesbian owned. Gas heat, yard. 700+ 524-1903 No smokers please. Lve messag. Great shape! (18)

Jamaica Plain. Beaut. 2-bdrm apt. hdwd. flrs, W/D, yard. Owner-occ'd, safe, close to T and Centre St. \$790+. Call 524-7992. (18)

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Second floor, Lesbian owned/occupied triple decker. Six rooms two porches. W/d in basement. Quiet street near park and T. Multi-ethnic community. 700+ 524-5144 (17)

PUBLICATIONS

BLACK/OUT

Special 10th Anniv. edition of Black/Out now available. This bi/annual magazine from the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays contains essays, reviews, poetry, news and announcements concerning the Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy \$6 plus \$1 postage. 1 year subscription (2 issues) \$10 to BLACK/OUT, c/o NCBLG, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219.(ex)

GAYELLOW PAGES

INFORMING THE GAY COMMUNITY SINCE 1973 Accommodations. AA groups, bars, baths, bookstores, businesses, counselors, dentists, doctors, hotels, lawyers, mail order, media, publications, organizations, religious groups, services, social groups, switchboards, therapists, travel agents, etc., etc., etc. (area codes and zip codes too!)

USA & CANADA \$10

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY \$4.50; includes Manhattan bar notes & women's section

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NORTHEAST EDITION \$4.50; Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, W. Virginia

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Ask us about Gayellow Pages on mailing labels!

Do you need facts about menopause? Does the stereotyping of older women make you angry? Do you want to be part of an Older Feminists Network? Broomstick, a bimonthly national magazine by, for and about women over forty. Annual subs (US funds only) U.S. \$15, Canada \$20, Overseas and Institutions \$25. Sliding scale available. Sample copy \$3.50. 3543 18 St. 33, San Francisco, CA 94110.

1990-91 DIRECTORY OF ALTERNATIVE AND RADICAL PUBLICATIONS

Over 350 periodicals listed \$3.00. Write: Alternative Press Center, P.O. Box 33109, Dept. D, Baltimore, MD 21218. (5)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree-who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50 sub. \$6 more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114. (18.35)

BAD ATTITUDE

A lesbian sex magazine. Irreverent and Hot! \$12 for one year's subscription (3 issues). B.A. Inc., P.O. Box 110, Cambridge, MA 02139. (16.33)

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OFF OUR BACKS

Lively, down-to-earth feminism in the nation's oldest women's newsmagazine. Analysis, reviews, conference coverage, and news - on health, feminist theory, reproductive rights, civil rights and political work among working, disabled, incarcerated, old, and poor women, women of color, lesbians and women from every continent, \$15/11 issues. \$6 plus \$1 postage. 2423 18th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009(ex)

WOMEN OF POWER: Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics, an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$26 for 4 issues, single issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885.(ex)

BREAKTHROUGH!

Political journal of Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, Spring 1989 issue. Women of the Philippine Revolution Interview with Makibaka; The Post-Feminist Myths speech by PISD (People with Immune System Disorders); Crack and Black Youth. \$3 including postage. John Brown Book Club, POB 1422, San Francisco, CA 94114 (ex)

ON OUR BACKS

The sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 49 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$28/year sub/\$6 single issue. ON OUR BACKS, 526 Castro, San Francisco, CA 94114 (ex)

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181.(ex)

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ORGANIZATIONS

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 1-800-42-BAGLY for info. (15.32)

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

MAN/BOY LOVE

Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free. Bulletin \$1.00 NAMBLA, P.O. Box 174, New York, NY 10018(7)

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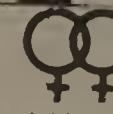
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Sincere, sexy Black female looking for dominant female. I enjoy swimming, playing shuttleball, partying and spending time with someone special. Sharon ZEIGLER, 735091, PO Box 8540--565, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE.

Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*



AND YET STILL HAVE SO FAR TO GO?

Most people in here, from the inmates to the guards don't understand gays. I just need someone to write me that I can talk to and be friends with. I have gotten my GED since I've been here and I will answer anyone who cares to write. Thank you for your help. Jewels GILL, 96050, Box 128, 6-C-9, Box 128, Eddyville KY 42038.

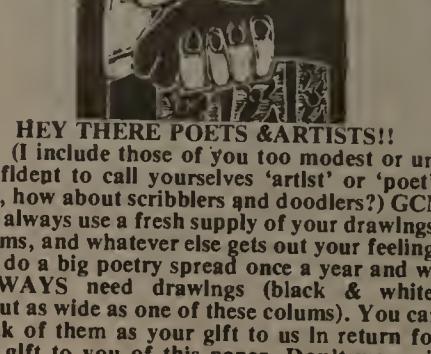
Sensual, so-so sexy GM, 29, very lonely, wishes to correspond with someone. Don't want your money, just friendship. Photo gets photo. David JOHNSON, CC-073738, Box 1500 MB-29, Cross City FL 32628

I would like very much to meet a true friend with whom I might build a lasting friendship. I am 42, with brown curly hair, weigh 160 and have many outdoor hobbies. I'm a musician who both plays and writes music. Please consider friendship. Russ MCKINNON, Star Rt Box 22-B, Tucker AR 72168



HEY THERE POETS & ARTISTS!!

(I include those of you too modest or unconfident to call yourselves 'artist' or 'poet'! OK, how about scribblers and doodlers?) GCN can always use a fresh supply of your drawings, poems, and whatever else gets out your feelings. We do a big poetry spread once a year and we ALWAYS need drawings (black & white, about as wide as one of these columns). You can think of them as your gift to us in return for our gift to you of this paper. Don't worry if they're not 'professional'. We're looking for inspiration, not technique.



CALENDAR

Boston TV \ Between Takes: "No Excuses, No Escape." This week's topic is gay bashing. Cable channels A3 and A8. 9:30 p.m. May appear on other cable systems this week; check your listings.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows. We regret that we cannot print every submission. No phone calls, please!

3 SATURDAY

Amherst ♦ Lesbian and Gay Cultural Festival: Reading by Melanie Kaye / Kantrowitz. Selections from her book *My Jewish Face and Other Stories*. 4 p.m. UMass Campus Center Room 163C. Info: (413) 545-4824.

Boston ♦ ARTcetera 90. More than 275 pieces of art and related items to be sold, with all proceeds to be donated to AAC. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., auction preview; 7 to 8:30, first auction session (traditional art, antiques, photography); 9 to 10:30, second auction session (contemporary art). Main lobby, One International Place. Tickets \$50. Info: 437-6200 x303.

Ipswich ♦ NSGLA Twelfth Anniversary Celebration. Fantasy's, 60 Newbury St. (Rt. 1). 8 p.m. Info: (508) 745-3848.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Traditional New England Contra and Square Dances. Band: Open to suggestion. Chris Ricciotti, caller. \$5. First Church of Jamaica Plain, Centre and Eliot Streets. 8 to 11 p.m. (beginners' lessons 7:30). Info: Janet 522-2216, Phil 729-9206, or Scott 536-2014.

Henniker, NH ♦ CAGL Halloween Dance. Pat's Peak, Rte. 114. Doors open 8:30 p.m., costume contest 10:30 p.m. \$6, or \$5 with costume.

Cambridge ♦ Amethyst Women's Fall Fling. Drug-alcohol-smoke-free event for lesbians and friends. 9 to 12p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$6 (more or less).

Cambridge ♦ Tricia Langlais. Christopher's, 1920 Mass. Ave. 9 p.m. \$5. Info: 876-9180.

4 SUNDAY

Dorchester ♦ Dorchester GALA Potluck. Time and location: hotline 825-3737.

Somerville ♦ GLOSS Potluck. Monthly potluck and social gathering at home of Brian Bauer. Info and directions: Brian 623-5817 or Lisa 628-2532.

Brookline ♦ Nice Jewish Girls Sunday Potluck Brunch. For Jewish lesbians. 1 p.m. Directions: 566-1281.

Gay and Lesbian Osteomates New England Gathering/Luncheon. Resource literature available. Info: (508) 358-6684.

Roxbury ♦ Jane Sapp and Pete Seeger. A benefit for the Center for Cultural and Community Development. Including Suzanne Pharr, performer / author of "Homophobia: Weapon of Sexism." 5 to 8 p.m. First Church Roxbury, Roxbury & Dudley Streets.

Boston ♦ GL&B Swing and Ballroom Dance Classes. First session of six; continues Sundays through 12/16. Four classes per night: Beginning Swing/Ballroom 5:30 p.m., Argentine Tango 6:30 p.m., Advanced Swing/Ballroom 7:30 p.m., Intermediate Swing/Ballroom 8:30 p.m. Series of six classes \$50. 1636A Beacon St. Info: Sara Brodsky 522-1444.

Boston ♦ "Midnight" Grand Opening. A new club for women (Cinderella turns into a pumpkin at "Midnight"). 13 Lansdowne St., above Axis. 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.; complimentary hors d'oeuvres and champagne 'til 10 p.m.

5 MONDAY

Newton ♦ Lesbian School Teachers and Administrators Potluck. 6:30 p.m. Info and directions: 244-5029.

Back Bay ♦ Dance for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends. U-Mass Boston, 250 Stuart Street, Room 621. Lambda & Dirty Dancing. Beginner I, 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. Swing Intensive, Beginner I, 8:15 to 9:30 p.m. Session I of 3. Info: 859-9455.

Boston ♦ NASW Comm. on Gay / Lesbian / BI Issues. For social workers and social work students. Info and carpooling: Meryl 964-3448. To get on mailing list: 227-9635.

Boston TV ♦ Between Takes: "No Excuses, No Escape." This week's topic is gay bashing. Cable channels A3 and A8. 9:30 p.m. May appear on other cable systems this week; check your listings.

6 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston: "Spill Your Guts." Meetings first and third Tuesdays of each month. 8 to 10 p.m. Lindemann Center 2nd floor Revere Room, 25 Staniford St. Info: 742-7897.

7 WEDNESDAY

Cambridge ♦ Deadline to Register for DOB Thanksgiving Dinner. Women \$10, members \$9, children \$3. Dinner 6 p.m. 11/18. Turkey or veggie. Checks to DOB, POB 667, Lincoln, MA 01773.

Boston ♦ NAMES Project / Boston General Meeting. Volunteers needed to plan for World AIDS Day and other activities involving the Quilt. 7 p.m. Piemonte Room, City Hall. Info: 451-9003.

Somerville ♦ Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Rights Activists of Somerville and Surrounding Areas (BLGRASS). Regular meeting (first Weds. of every month). 7 p.m. Site and agenda: 666-9288 or 628-9650.

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area Gay and Lesbian Youth. Open to gay and bisexual youth 21 and under. Meets first and third Wednesday each month at United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7 p.m. Info: (508) 755-0005.

Boston ♦ Support Group for Lesbians Considering Insemination. An open, drop-in style support group the first Tuesday night of every month. \$5 per session. 7:30 p.m. FCHC, 16 Haviland St. Info: Jenifer 267-0900.

8 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Free Flu Vaccine at FCHC. 10 to 11:30 a.m. 16 Haviland St. Info: 267-7573.

Boston ♦ Wholistic Health: A Way of Life: "Breath, Meditation, and Effective Visualization." Sponsored by FCHC. Using breath and meditation, and combining body sensation with imagery; applying these techniques to stress and pain management. \$5. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon St., 7th fl. 6 to 8 p.m. Info and registration: 267-0900.

Dorchester ♦ Gay and Lesbian Concerns Committee of SEIU Local 509. Meets 2nd Thurs. of each month. At Union Office, 5 Howard Johnson Plaza. 6:30 p.m. Info: 282-2509.

Cambridge ♦ DOB Coffee Bar. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston ♦ GLAAD: Boston Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. General meetings 2nd Thursday of the month. The Center rm 202. 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 492-4639.

Boston ♦ An Evening with Fran Peavey: An HIV+ Women Tells Her Story. FCHC's Living Well Series. 7 to 9 p.m. 140 Clarendon St., 7th floor. Info: Paul or Robb 267-0900.

Cambridge ♦ GAMIT Dance: Crash XII. MIT Student Ctr., 84 Mass Ave. 9 p.m. \$3 student, \$4 other. Info: Johanna 225-7108.

9 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ An Evening with Fran Peavey: An HIV+ Women Tells Her Story. FCHC's Living Well Series. 7 to 9 p.m. 140 Clarendon St., 7th floor. Info: Paul or Robb 267-0900.

Boston ♦ Two Films at MIT: "Montreal Main" and "Broken Noses." Montreal Main, 7:30 p.m., chronicles a relationship between a gay artist and a 13-year-old boy; Broken Noses, about a boxing coach and his charges, begins 9:15 p.m. Suggested donation \$3. MIT Room 66-110, 115 Ames St. Info: Chris 253-3599.

Boston ♦ Girth and Mirth Party. 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 666-4283.

10 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ Community Meeting to Launch the Fight for Domestic Partnership Legislation in Boston. Piemonte Room, City Hall. 2 p.m.

Cambridge ♦ Two Films at MIT: "Montreal Main" and "Broken Noses." Montreal Main, 7:30 p.m., chronicles a relationship between a gay artist and a 13-year-old boy; Broken Noses, about a boxing coach and his charges, begins 9:15 p.m. Suggested donation \$3. MIT Room 66-110, 115 Ames St. Info: Chris 253-3599.

Boston ♦ Girth and Mirth Party. 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 666-4283.

11 SUNDAY

Jamaica Plain ♦ J.P. Neighbors Pre-Holiday Potluck. Bring food to share and a non-alcoholic bev. First Church Unitarian Hall, Eliot & Centre Sts. 4:30 to 7 p.m. Info: 327-5669 or 524-8070.

Boston ♦ Peter Allen In Concert. To benefit Fenway Community Health Center's Building Project. Berklee Performance Ctr. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$19.50 and \$24.50. FCHC 247-CARE, Ticketmaster 931-2000, or Berklee Box Office 266-7455.

13 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays. 2nd Tuesday of the month. Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. (Mass. Ave. & Columbus). 6:30 p.m. Info: David 424-6989.

Boston ♦ Create the Holldays You Want. FCHC's Living Well Series. 7 to 8:30 p.m. 332 Newbury St., 2nd floor. Info: Paul or Robb 267-0900.

Arlington ♦ Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets on the second Tuesday of every month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 547-2440 or (508) 562-5807.

South End ♦ Healing Service for Those Affected by AIDS. Handicap access; ASL interpreted. St. Stephen's Church, 419 Shawmut Ave. 7:30 p.m. Info: Ecumenical Task Force on AIDS 628-



7665.

Cambridge ♦ The Flirtations. Champagne and pre-show reception 8 p.m. Show 10 p.m. Indigo, 823 Main St. Tickets \$12. Info: Cyndie 783-0212.

14 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ MGLPC Monthly Membership Meeting. (MGLPC = Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.) 6:30 p.m. Arlington Street Church (use the Boylston St. entrance).

Boston ♦ Community Research Initiative Update. 6 to 8 p.m. 332 Newbury St., room 202K. Info: Paul or Robb 267-0900.

Boston ♦ Coming Out Support Group. At the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth Wednesday of each month. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

15 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Wholistic Health: A Way of Life: "Belief Management: How Can I Believe What I Don't Believe?" Sponsored by FCHC. \$5. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon St., 7th fl. 6 to 8 p.m. Info and registration: 267-0900.

Brewster ♦ Cape Cod and Islands Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Issues and Concerns. Monthly meeting, third Thursday of each month. 6:30 p.m. Dawes Hall, 1946 Main St. (Rt. 6A). Info: (508) 362-2799.

Northampton ♦ Valley Gay Alliance meets first and third Thursday every month. Basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30 p.m. (413) 527-5310.

16 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ Beyond Right Now: The Sixth International Lesbian and Gay Officials Conference. City Hall. Friday 11/16 through Sunday 11/18. Info and registration: David Scordas 725-4225 or Ann Sanders 725-3485.

South Dartmouth ♦ Rhode Island & S.E. Mass Gay and Lesbian Jewish Group Monthly Oneg. A social and potluck held the third Friday of each month. Info: Debra (401) 273-4765 or Fred (508) 992-7927.

Boston ♦ Living In a World With AIDS: "Dealing with Loss." Presentation / discussion with Joe DiMartino, LICSW. Session 6 of 8 in series. 186 Mass. Ave., 2nd floor. 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Info: MCC-Boston 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Game Night. Board and parlor games every other Friday, 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

Boston ♦ BAGLY Drop-in Center. (BAGLY = Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth.) St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. Info: (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Boston ♦ ALATEEN Group open to lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, 22 and under. 338 Newbury Street, rm. 202k. 6pm-7:30 p.m. Info: Dave 629-2518 or Frank 666-8912.

Boston ♦ Gay Narcotics Anonymous. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

MONDAYS

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends. About 100 people with AIDS and their friends meet every Monday at AIDS ACTION for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AIDS ACTION, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Meeting House Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Women's Network Coordinating Committee. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamingos. For TV/TS of New England. 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. Info: 247-2927.

Boston TV ♦ PrideTime — Boston gay and lesbian television, with Jim Voltz. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30 p.m.

ONGOING

Boston ♦ Donate Your Saleable Goods or Services for an upcoming flea market to benefit Pride Comm. and The Center. Free pick-up. Info: 262-7760.

Warwick, RI ♦ Care To Dance: A Fundraising Dance-a-Thon. Rhode Island Project / AIDS. A five-hour pledge event to take place 11/18, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. For information or to participate, call now: (401) 831-5522.

The AIDS Benefits Handbook:
Everything You Need to Know to Get
Social Security, Welfare, Medicaid,
Medicare, Food Stamps, Housing, Drugs,
and Other Benefits
Thomas McCormack
Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 1990
\$8.95 paper, 257 pp.

Reviewed by Marea Murray

Years ago I went with a grandmother who'd adopted her son's HIV-positive daughter to apply for benefits at the Social Security Office. We waited for several hours to see a counselor and, with his help, filled out the ten-page application. The grandmother was fearful and nervous. Thinking I was the child's mother, the counselor began by addressing me. Deferring to the grandmother, I first explained our confusion at whether applying for SSI would cause her to lose the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and adoption subsidy payments she relied on while caring for the child at home.

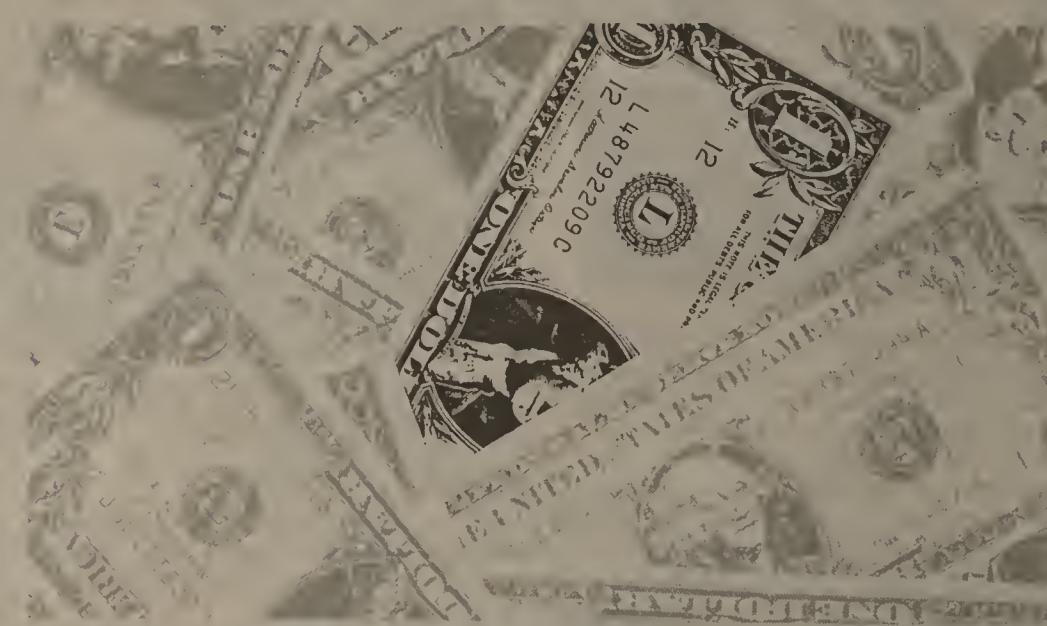
Looking around warily, the grandmother confided to him that the child was positive for "the HIV antibodies." The man was shocked but mumbled something about did she have ARC or AIDS? Quickly the grandmother explained that, aside from earaches and some thrush, the child was "only positive" and, since she was under 18 months old, they were about to test for that again.

The worker was still confused. The child's doctor had provided a short, optimistic letter that did not specify any diagnosis. He explained that this wouldn't meet the required medical report standards. We would need the medical records—from the three hospitals the child had been admitted to or seen in—to see if the child met the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) definition for AIDS or ARC.

Apologizing, he sheepishly noted that as the child was not living in a home she owned, SSI benefits could legally be reduced by a third and might actually keep the child over the limit for Medicaid eligibility because, technically, she had other income from AFDC and the adoption subsidy. Under the state's Employment and Training Program, the grandmother was expected to enter vocational training—more

Penetrating the AIDS benefits monolith

A new handbook patiently explains it all for you



income—and state law allowed no day care center to take on a child under 2 years, 9 months who had tested positive.

We labored through the paperwork and thanked the worker. Months later we learned the SSI benefits had been denied because the child's records didn't meet the ARC parameters of the CDC. The grandmother was relieved because she saw the government's decision as a "stay"—if the government and her doctor didn't perceive her child as a PWARC, then she was "just positive." Besides, by then we had appealed to state officials for some relief to the catch-22s implicit in her situation.

Among other resources, I wish Thomas McCormack's *AIDS Benefits Handbook: Everything You Need to Know to Get Social Security, Welfare, Medicaid, Medicare, Food Stamps, Housing, Drugs, and Other Benefits* had been available then. It is available now and I urge every advocate, lawyer, PWA and HIV-affected person to get hold of it.

It is tedious to fight the system. In fact,

bias based on the "definition" continues—witness the recent class action suit filed in Manhattan in early October against the Social Security Administration. The suit alleges that many women, children, addicts and homeless persons disabled by HIV are being systematically denied federal benefits because the government persists in adhering to the 1987 CDC definition. Gynecological disorders, heart infections, bacterial pneumonia and kidney failure—very common to poorer people—are not considered HIV-related. Marginalized people often die before the paperwork necessary for filing appeals can be completed.

According to McCormack, a 20-year veteran of public benefits eligibility, in the introduction to his detailed and helpful manual,

Since the most basic needs of PWAs are for income and access to health care, it follows that the central programs for their needs are SSI and Medicaid. And in this it is

unfortunate, not only because both programs' eligibility rules are themselves incredibly complex, but because the inter-relationships of SSI and Medicaid under the varying state procedures have produced a monstrous ganglion of rules, permutations, and exceptions. In fact, SSI and Medicaid are now viewed—at least privately—by their own policy staffs as nearly unadministerable.

Each chapter features step-by-step how-to's, what-to-bring lists and *essentially* "special problems" and appeals mechanisms. Winding your way through red tape takes energy and, at \$8.95, this book serves as a map as well as a guide to reforms to push for on a state-by-state basis. Rightfully, McCormack notes how little attention has been paid to "The System's" (sic) intricacies by those most often expected to lead clients through it. Little formal training is offered in graduate schools of social work (for example) as to how to use the entitlements programs to clients' advantage; most often "on-the-job-training" is catch as catch can between beeper calls and numerous meetings and clients. The acronyms alone are mind boggling. What's the difference between SSI and SSDI? What is an SSP? Patiently and repeatedly (sorry, this ain't no page-turner) McCormack explains it all to us.

Perhaps most useful are the several appendixes and a glossary detailing what sorts of information a doctor or therapist need include in reports or evaluations on which benefit awards may depend. He offers many clues in each chapter about advocating for oneself ("apply immediately," get the records yourself, etc.) and tidbits like the fact that persons in recovery—no matter for how long—may submit details of past substance abuse as part of their disability history; that persons suffering from opportunistic infections or other conditions leading to serious kidney malfunction or failure may be eligible for Medicare with only a three-month waiting period (as opposed to the norm of two years from official disability onset); that membership in the American Association for Retired Persons is available to people under 50 enabling them to be eligible for reduced prescriptions. I could go on but instead I'll urge you to get this book, glean what you can, and use it as your benefits bible.

VOTE DOROTHY STEVENS FOR GOVERNOR

Dorothy Stevens has been there;
now she wants your help to:

- Protect civil rights for all, regardless of race, sex, sexual preference, age, etc, including equal rights for all foster parents, domestic partners; repeal of the sodomy laws.
- Expand funding for public education for our children and ourselves.
- Insure healthcare for all; funding for AIDS
- Support Labor issues; raise minimum wage to \$10.
- Implement fair taxation-
 - Shift some of the tax burden from working and middle class
 - Tax corporations fairly-first by insisting they report their earnings
- Tax the rich as much as the rest of us, by closing capital gains loophole and working for a graduated income tax.
- Raise welfare to the Poverty Level and the minimum wage to \$10-
 - Fight homelessness, hunger and infant mortality
 - Insure everyone's survival
 - Expand the tax base
 - Create an ongoing cash influx into local economies.
- Protect a women's right to choose abortion while pushing for supports such as childcare, an insured minimum income, and child support.
- Create and renovate affordable housing for all, creating 15,000 jobs.
- Implement a plan to stop youth from killing each other & to end illegal police searches; stop hate crimes.

Write Dorothy Stevens on your ballot on Nov. 6

with her address: 95 Standard St. Mattapan

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dorothy Stevens Governor, 298-7311



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